Military eyed in abduction of 4 Compostela youths

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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WINNING SMILE
This photo of "presidentiable" Ate Glow and running mate Hello Kitty won the People's Choice Award in the Gift Gate-Fujifilm "Why Smile?" contest, which aimed to help promote smiles and happy times. The contest drew over 1,500 entries and culminated Saturday at the Glorietta Mall in Makati City.

Vote for transition President pressed

No martial law plans, GMA assures people

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
Metro

CALLING martial law a bad dream, President Macapagal-Arroyo assured the country yesterday that she had no plans of imposing military rule despite persistent coup threats against her administration.

"This day we are commemorating what should not happen ever again. Martial law is a bad dream," the President said on the 31st anniversary of the declaration of martial law by Ferdinand Marcos.

In a speech before the Sulong Batayang Sector Koalisyon at the Quezon City Hall, Ms Macapagal said reforms would be made "through democratic means and not through destabilization or going back to martial law."

The President cited a survey which showed that a big percentage of the country's citizens were not in favor of imposing martial law to solve the country's problems.

She even boasted that she had instituted "more reforms in her two-and-half years of democratic rule than the entire 14 years of martial law."

Ms Macapagal cited her government's gains in bringing down kidnap and drug syndicates, as well as in facilitating the resolution of the coconut levy and Marcos wealth cases.

She said threats posed by forces behind moves to bring back martial law and dictatorship by establishing a junta had "diminished as seen from their inability to hold mass protest actions today."

NO MARTIAL/ A20

They also remember, even in Marcos country

By the PDI Bureaus

PEOPLE do remember, even in the heart of Marcos country.

In a rare moment, some 500 people gathered in front of the Ilocos Norte provincial capitol in Laoag City to mark the 31st anniversary of the declaration of martial law by the Ilocanos' favorite son, Ferdinand E. Marcos.

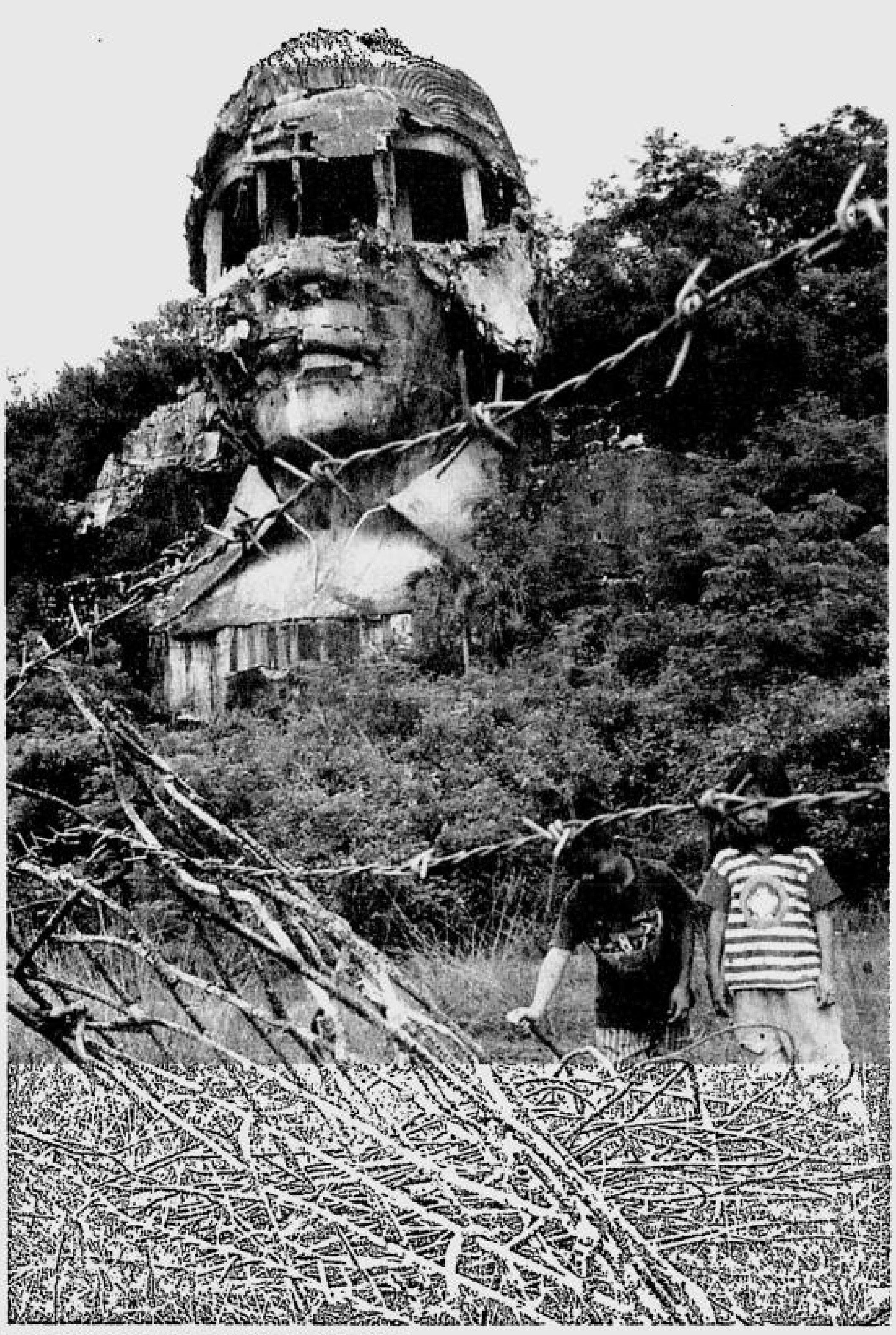
Members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, who came from Ilocos Sur on board three buses, recalled the human rights violations committed during the Marcos regime.

"We are asking the government to indemnify the rights victims under martial law," said Sherwin de Vera, deputy secretary general of Bayan-Ilocos. "The proposal has been stalled because officials want to pour the Marcos loot into the CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program)."

De Vera was referring to the $683 million in Marcos Swiss deposits that the Supreme Court had declared as ill-gotten and forfeited in favor of the government. But the money has not been transferred to the country because of legal challenges by the Marcoses, a US district judge and a German bank.

Indemnification was also on

THEY/ A20



THE END OF MARCOS TYRANNY?
Children play below the defaced bust of Ferdinand Marcos in Taloy Sur, Tuba, Benguet, unmindful of its significance that was highlighted by yesterday's commemoration of the late strongman's declaration of martial law on Sept. 21, 1972.
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

House tells Senate: Agree to Cha-cha

By Carlito Pablo

HOUSE representatives are stepping up pressure on a reluctant Senate to agree to immediate changes to the Constitution that would allow for the election of a transition President in 2004 and a full shift to a parliamentary system by 2007.

And, according to her adviser for special concerns, President Macapagal-Arroyo herself is "looking positively" at the twin options that would be made possible only if the House and Senate convene as a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution before next May's elections.

The President, who has so far been noncommittal on the issue of Charter change, was "not negative" in her attitude to the proposal, said Norberto Gonzales, the presidential adviser on special concerns.

"Changing the Constitution is what we need to institute political reforms. The President agrees that it's all about reforms, otherwise she would not even look at it," he said.

Gonzales, Malacañang's point man on Charter change, suggested recently that Ms Macapagal was the "ideal" choice for a transition President, fueling speculations that the Palace was itself promoting a transition presidency scenario.

The proposal for a transition presidency-cum-parliamentary shift has renewed the largely House-initiated campaign to amend the Constitution on or before the elections of 2004.

The two chambers are split on just how the amendments are to be made. The House of Representatives has opted for a constituent assembly made up of members of Congress. The Senate would like a constitutional convention of delegates elected during the 2004 elections.

The idea of a transition President and a full shift to a parliamentary system by 2007 was outlined last week by Speaker Jose de Venecia, Gonzales and presiden-

VOTE/ A21

Publisher recalls anti-Marcos movement in US

By Alex Esclamado
Contributor

THIRTY-ONE years after the martial law regime of Ferdinand Marcos began, we have yet to come upon the full story of how his dictatorship was toppled and how freedom and democracy were restored.

We invoke the spirit of the first Edsa people power uprising and romanticize its drama and suspense. But while Edsa I was the key event that brought down Marcos' rule, a simplistic unilinear view focused on that first Edsa would distort the story of our democratic struggle.

Many have written and will still write about what happened on the home front, and the exile movement definitely helped in the success of the struggle.

The overseas aspect of that multi-faceted event is akin to the Solidaridad propaganda movement in Europe during the Spanish colonial rule that stoked the fires of passion for freedom at home.

I was publisher and editor in chief of Philippine News, the most widely circulated Filipino newspaper in the United States. My paper covered political and economic developments in the Philippines, presenting the truth and the facts that were otherwise hidden from the country's citizens and the rest of the world.

The exile struggle was so intense and

PUBLISHER/ A9

Gloria must declare if she's running

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

POLITICAL discourse in this country has been dominated during the past few months by two overriding themes—coups d'etat and exposés of alleged corruption in high places.

The public's fixation on these two issues has drawn the energy of the nation away from economic concerns which, according to recent opinion polls, top the list of problems that preoccupy Filipinos. For example, the Pulse Asia August 2003 survey shows that 36 percent of Filipinos cited economic recovery as their most urgent national concern, taking precedence over peace and order (28 percent) and graft and corruption (24 percent).

If the surveys reflect accurately the priorities of the people, then our politicians are not listening to the messages from them and have different priorities

GMA/ A8

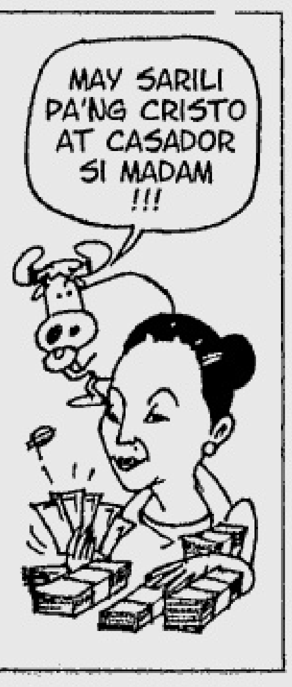
Nikki, govs steal show in cockfight derby

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—Placing bets as high as half a million pesos per entry, the governors of Masbate, Camarines Norte and Albay stole the thunder from the prized fighting cocks that they had brought with them to a big-time derby during the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

But a single rose among the thorns, former Sen. Anna Dominique "Nikki"

NIKKI/ A10


MAY SARILI PA'NG CRISTO AT CASADOR SI MADAM !!!

Pagcor: No mismanagement

Gaming firm says report misleading

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) has dismissed as misleading the allegation that it is in "serious financial difficulty" due to mismanagement.

Responding to articles that came out in the INQUIRER on Sept. 18 and 19, Dodie King, Pagcor's managing head for advertising and public relations, yesterday denied that the state-run gaming firm has had a "surge" of new employees, gave away "massive, mindless donations," and engaged in "profligate spending."

In a statement, King acknowledged, however, an increase in the number of Pagcor personnel—from 8,906 in 2000 to 9,595 in 2001 and to 10,440 in 2002. These numbers are inclusive of the agency's regular, probationary and monthly paid employees.

An increase in personnel is what experienced businessmen would expect of a healthy and expanding corporation, King said.

"There is a need for additional personnel because of the expansion projects and the operational reforms that we have instituted. For instance, all our branches to date operate on a 24/7 basis, unlike before when some provincial branches operated on two shifts only. Naturally, this necessitated additional manpower for our casino operations," he said.

Because of Pagcor chair Efraim C. Genuino's concern for the welfare of the employees and his belief that people are a company's most

PAGCOR/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cludy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/09/22/03

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Davao	Cloudy with rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Military eyed in youths' abduction

By Anthony Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Unidentified armed men abducted four youths in Maco, Compostela Valley on Friday afternoon, according to the human rights group Karapatan.

Military involvement was suspected after a parent of one of the youths received a phone call from a man purporting to be a member of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) on Saturday. The man offered a deal for the release of the victims.

Ariel Casilao, Karapatan secretary general, identified the victims as Lito Doydoy, 27, an Anak Bayan community organizer; Marjorie Reynoso, 18, Maco Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chair and Anak Bayan coordinator; Jonathan Benaro, SK councilor of Barangay Mataang in Maco, and Ramon Regase, 17, a tricycle driver.

Casilao said the victims were on their way to Maco in Regase's tricycle after attending a birthday party at the NCCC Mall in Tagum City, when armed men in a red Tamaraw FX blocked their way on the Maco highway and forced them into the vehicle.

A witness told Karapatan that one of the victims had apparently been shot, after bloodstains were found at the spot where they were kidnapped just past a banana plantation.

Casilao said Reynoso's parents, who are also members of Bayan Muna, got in touch with Karapatan a few hours after the incident.

Karapatan officials accompanied the Reynosos to the MIG office in Tagum City, and then to the Maco police, to check if any of the victims had been brought there. They were reportedly told at both headquarters that no such incident had been reported.

Gloria Reynoso said she called her daughter's mobile phone a few times but could not get a connection at first. Finally at midnight, a man picked up the phone. He was laughing as they talked, she said.

She told the man that she knew he was with the MIG. Upon hearing this, Gloria said, the man hung up.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, while on her way to the Karapatan office in Davao City, Gloria said she received a call from a certain Benjie. She said he introduced himself as an MIG member, offered a deal for the safe release of the victims, and arranged for them to meet in Tagum City.

Casilao said he advised Gloria not to meet with the man, as she ran the risk of also being abducted.

As of last night, the four youths were reportedly still in the hands of their snatchers.

Casilao branded the abduction another form of political harassment against progressive groups, and said it could be an offshoot of last week's launch of "Alsa-Maco," initiated by Mayor Miller Alaba against the New People's Army.

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the apo view	P1,100 NET	Davao	(082) 221-6430
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Lacson says he has more dirt on Mike

By Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said he will dish out more dirt against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in a third privilege speech at the Senate next month, which will be more explosive than his earlier exposés.

Lacson, who arrived in the country Friday night, said he would provide "concrete" evidence on his allegations that Arroyo owned secret bank accounts containing over P260 million in laundered money.

Lacson will deliver his speech when Congress reopens on Oct. 6.

In a phone interview, Lacson said chapter three of his exposé will contain information that he dug up during his latest trip abroad. He reportedly went to Australia and the United States for more evidence to bolster his charges against Arroyo.

Lacson declined to reveal what he had found, however. He will hold a news conference at the Senate today where he said he would divulge "whatever is necessary."

But Malacañang is unfazed by Lacson's threat.

In an interview over RMN radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the Palace was not intimidated by Lacson's threat of a new round of allegations against the First Couple.

"Everybody can see, including his colleagues in the Senate, that he has yet to submit a single piece of documented evidence," Bunye said.

Malacañang has insisted that Lacson's "Jose Pidal" exposé and the filing of anti-racketeering charges against the First Couple in the US were part of a strategy to draw public attention away from the charges he is facing in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre. The Supreme Court is expected to hand down its decision on whether the case should be revived soon.

Bunye also denied that Malacañang had sought the assistance of the US Embassy in the anti-racketeering charges filed by Lacson in the United States.

Bunye said the President will not interfere in the Jose Pidal controversy unless it is linked to her office.

Suspected JI member nabbed at Zambo airport

By Hernan P. de la Cruz
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PAGADIAN CITY—A suspected member of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) regional terror group was arrested Sunday at the Zamboanga International Airport, one day before President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected in Mindanao to personally supervise the manhunt for escaped terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, himself a confessed JI member.

Nabbed by agents of the Naval Intelligence Service at around 9 a.m. was Jasem Alhassan, who had just arrived from Kuwait.

At the time of his arrest, Alhassan was with a certain Abu Omar, allegedly a ranking member of the homegrown Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

A source in the Army's intelligence community said Alhassan had presented questionable travel documents at the airport.

"He entered with fictitious documents... and this was confirmed by the Bureau of Immigration," the source said.

"At first, agents accosted him for an ID check, but when he presented fictitious documents he was invited for questioning together with Omar," the source, who asked not to be named, added.

The same source claimed that Omar was recently seen with Al-Ghozi somewhere in the Triple SB (the Tungawan, Sibuco, Sirawai, Siocon and Baliguian complex) in Zamboanga del Norte.

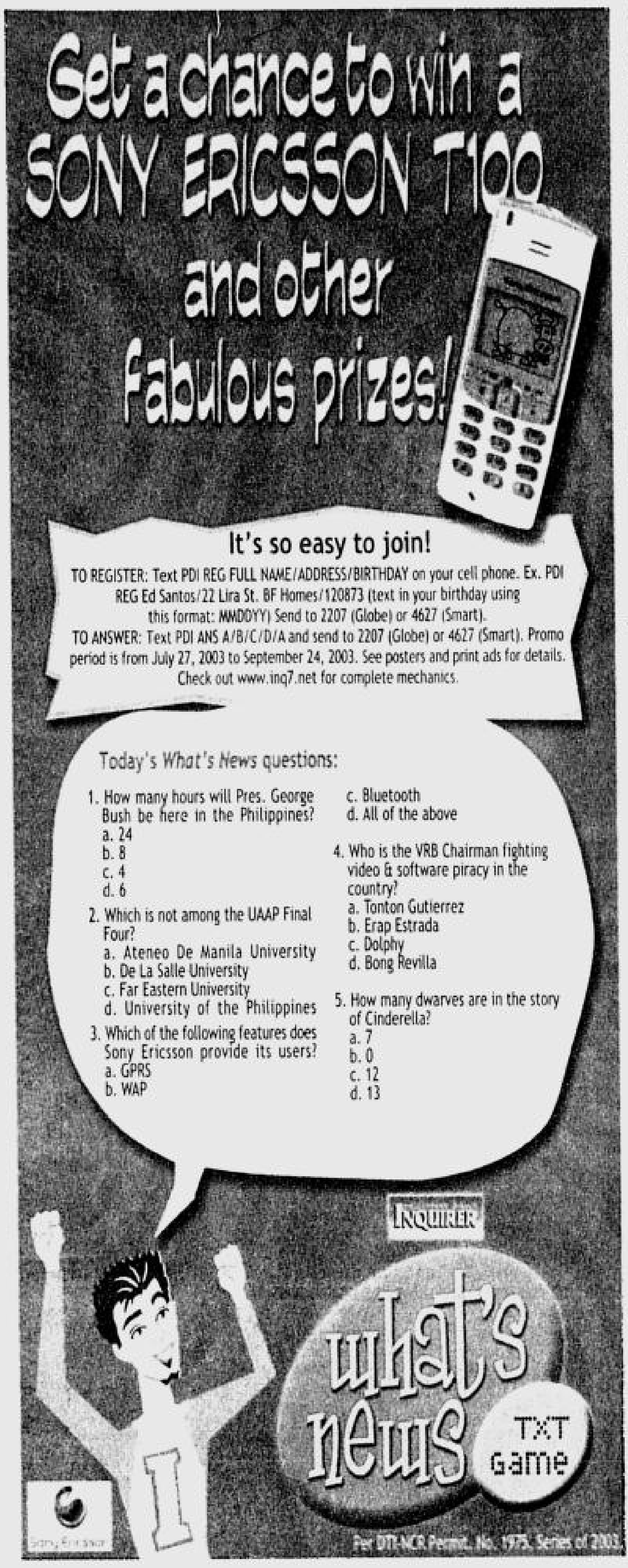
Alhassan is a JI member "apparently trying to get in touch with Al-Ghozi," the source said.

It was learned that Alhassan's trip to the Philippines was facilitated by the Southeast Asia Development Foundation Inc. (Sadfi) and the Association of Islamic Development (AID) based in this city.

5 killed in Benguet gold heist

MASKED gunmen barged into the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. compound in Mangakayan, Benguet, killing four guards and an engineer before carting away some 21 kilos of gold worth about P14 million, company officials said Sunday.

The gold bars were being transported Saturday when the robbers approached and opened fire with assault rifles, Lepanto administrative manager Florendo Fajilan said. *AP*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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. How many hours will Pres. George Bush be here in the Philippines?
   a. 24
   b. 8
   c. 4
   d. 6
2. Which is not among the UAAP Final Four?
   a. Ateneo De Manila University
   b. De La Salle University
   c. Far Eastern University
   d. University of the Philippines
3. Which of the following features does Sony Ericsson provide its users?
   a. GPRS
   b. WAP
   c. Bluetooth
   d. All of the above
4. Who is the VRB Chairman fighting video & software piracy in the country?
   a. Tonton Gutierrez
   b. Erap Estrada
   c. Dolphy
   d. Bong Revilla
5. How many dwarves are in the story of Cinderella?
   a. 7
   b. 0
   c. 12
   d. 13

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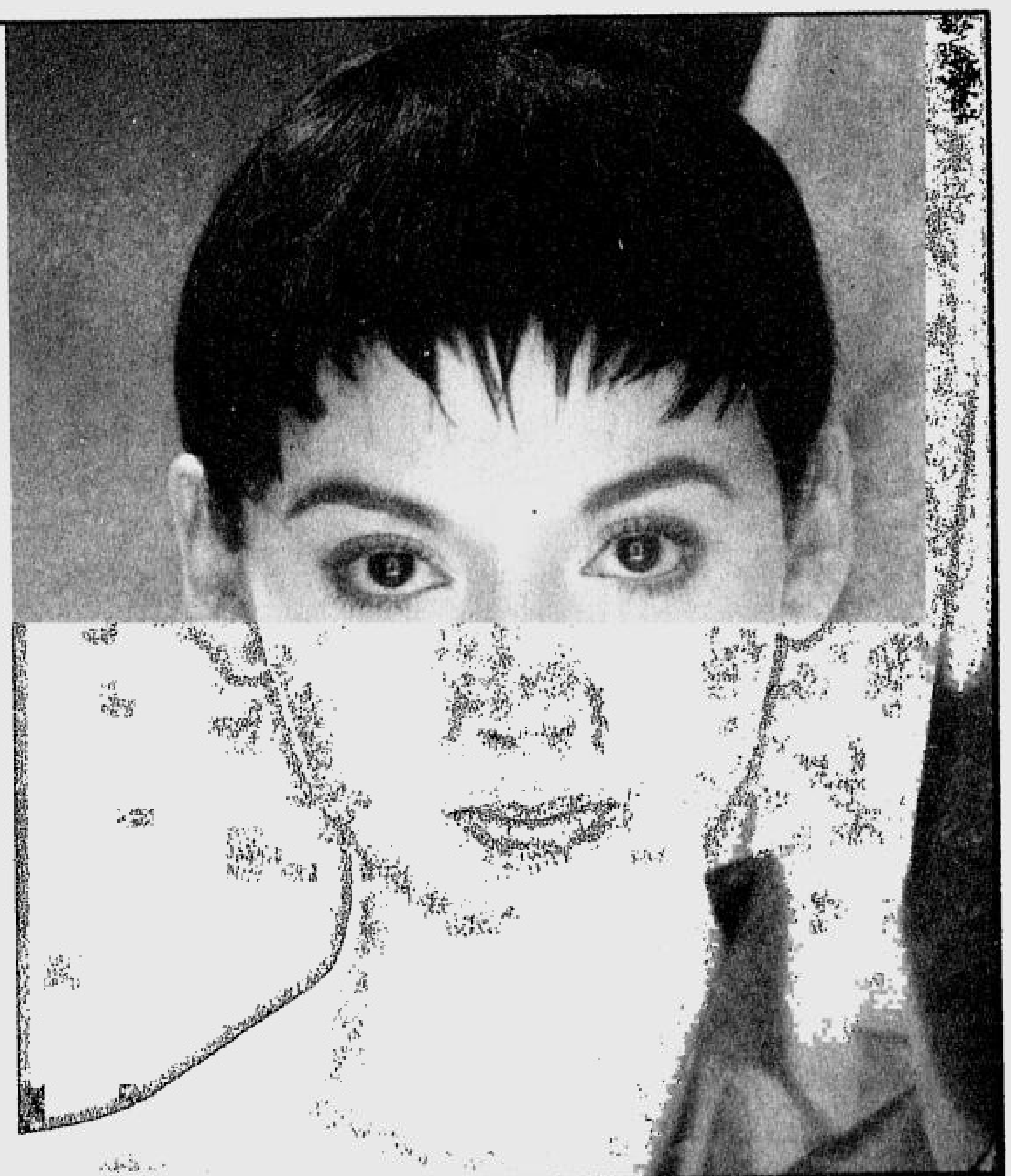

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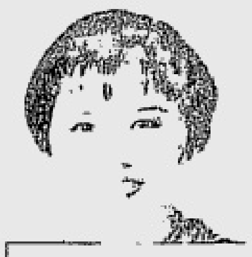
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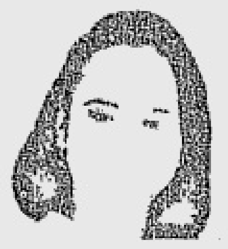
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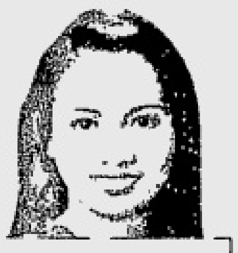
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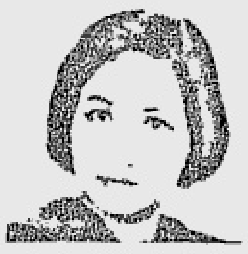
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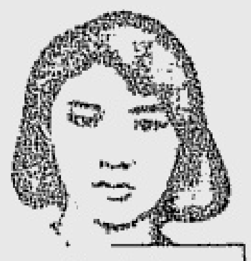
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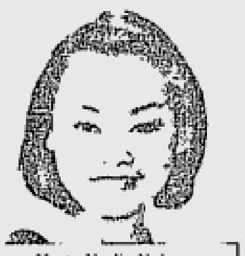
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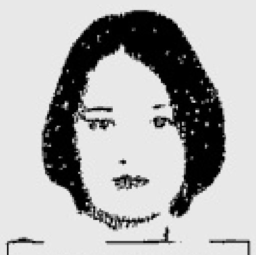
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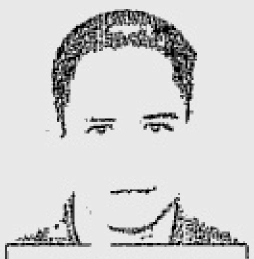
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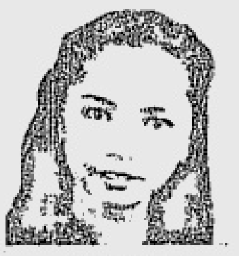
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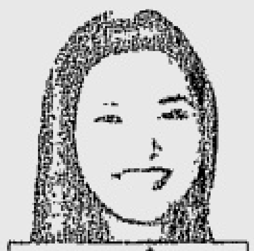
Vernie Lee Wong
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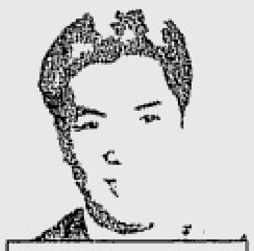
3rd Placer

Reinalyn E. Estrada
Dentistry - 1999
3rd Placer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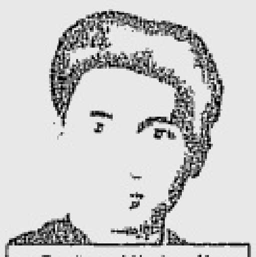
Ferdinand Norben M.
San Joaquin
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Ralph C. Rafa
Optometry - 1997
3rd Placer

Baby Susan Shultz
Med Tech- 1996
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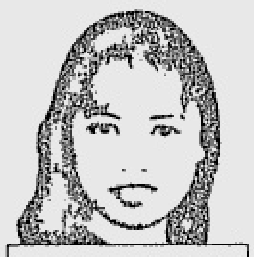
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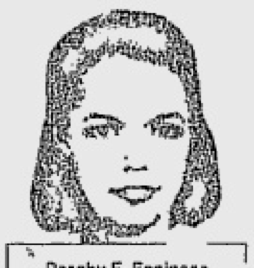
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Nursing - Batch 1996
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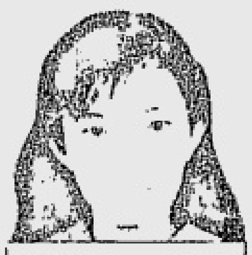
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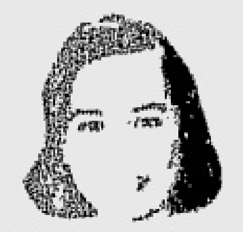
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Social Work - Batch 1995
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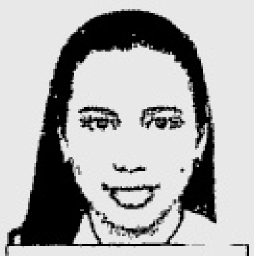
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Michelle V. Mendoza
Optometry - Batch 2003
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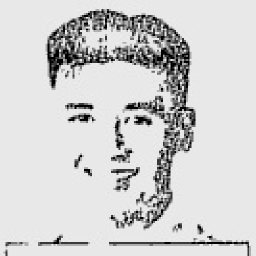
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Cherryl Geronimo Torres
Optometry - 2001
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Elaine Q. Cua
Optometry - 2000
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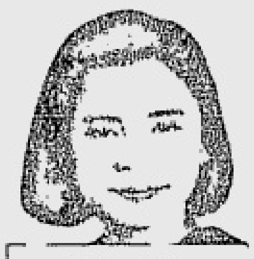
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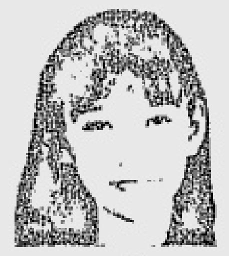
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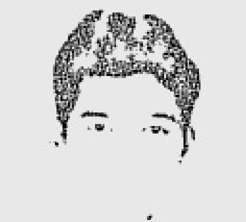
Michael Wong
Optometry - Batch 1995
4th Placer

Joy Aguirre
Optometry - 1995
4th Placer

Marcus Alphonsus
O. Lagazon
Education - 1994
4th Placer

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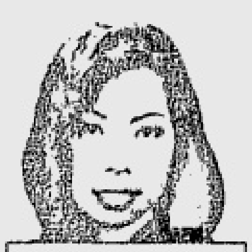
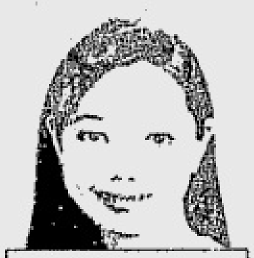

Sunday Cayangyang
Pharmacy - 1994
4th Placer

Alvin Leonsua
Optometry - 2002
5th Placer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Med Tech - Batch 2001
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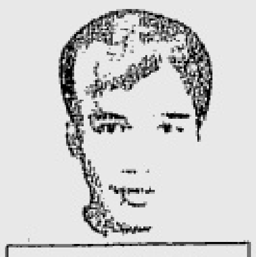
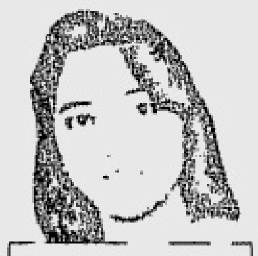

Alberto Corda, Jr.
Med Tech - 1999
5th Placer

Maria Rosa Amada L. Jimenez
Optometry - Batch 1998
5th Placer

Mercy Lynne Uy
Optometry - 1996
5th Placer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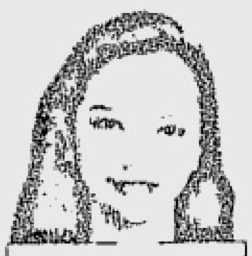
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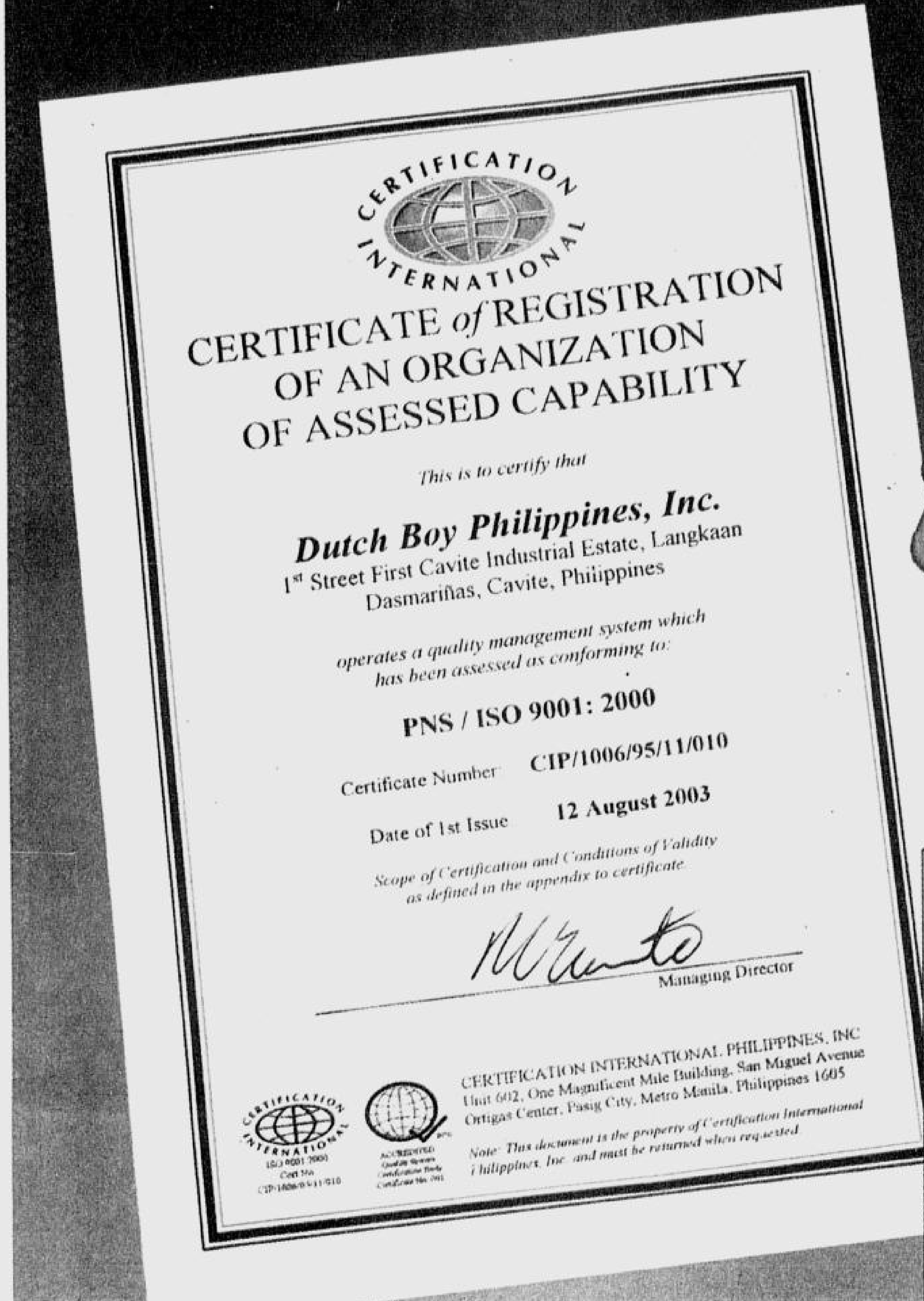

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Lack of principals hurting public ed – Zubiri

By Carlito Pablo

"THE MOST important outpost in education does not have a detachment commander," Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) lamented yesterday.

Citing a Department of Education report to Congress, Zubiri said half of the nation's 41,121 public schools do not have principals.

"And at the rate items for principals are being created, it will take at least a decade before all public schools have a principal," he said.

Zubiri pointed out that despite the lack, the DepEd's proposed P110.5-billion budget for 2004 does not provide for funds to create even one additional position for principal.

This means no new principal will be appointed next year, he said.

Principals are the academic and administrative managers of a school and are the link to senior officials in the education bureaucracy.

"Of the principal-less schools, 19,313 are elementary schools and 1,323 are high schools," Zubiri said.

The House of Representatives is currently conducting hearings on the proposed budgets of national government agencies for 2004.

Zubiri proposed that in the meantime 1,675 teachers be promoted to principal as an initial step to filling the need.

The resulting vacant items for teachers could be used to hire new tutors, he said.

"The creation of more principal items will redound to the good of basic education as it would create a management position in schools, which deserving teachers can be promoted to," Zubiri said.

Filling all the 20,636 principal vacancies will cost the government P3.2 billion in annual salaries, he said.

He noted that the lack of principals is on top of the many shortages afflicting the public education sector, which still needs 15,060 classrooms, 11,054 teachers, 9.9 million textbooks and 4.12 million seats.

'Ombudsman proper venue for Nani probe'

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman and not the Department of Justice should take the lead in investigating the alleged $2 million extortion case involving former Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez, Malacañang said yesterday.

In an interview over RMN radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the Ombudsman was the "more appropriate" agency to look into Perez's case because it is mandated to investigate cases even without a complaint, while the DOJ acts only on cases where there are complaints.

Bunye said the Ombudsman has the mandate and the administrative machinery to probe Perez.

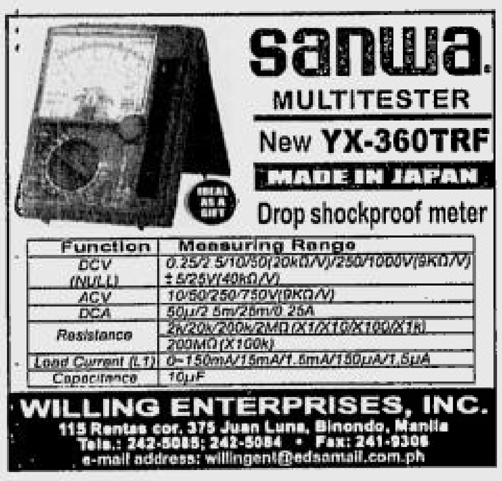
He said it was up to the Ombudsman to determine, based on assessment of the evidence, whether a new investigation is warranted.

Two weeks ago, Bunye said the President would not block any move by the DOJ to take a second look at the alleged $2-million bribe given by former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez to Perez in 2001.

Jimenez had claimed he wired $2 million on Feb. 23, 2001 from his account in a Uruguay bank to an account at Coutts Bank in Hong Kong that allegedly belonged to investment banker Ernest Escaler, an associate of Perez.

Bunye said: "The appropriate department can go ahead and initiate the investigation. The ball is now in the hands of the DOJ."

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.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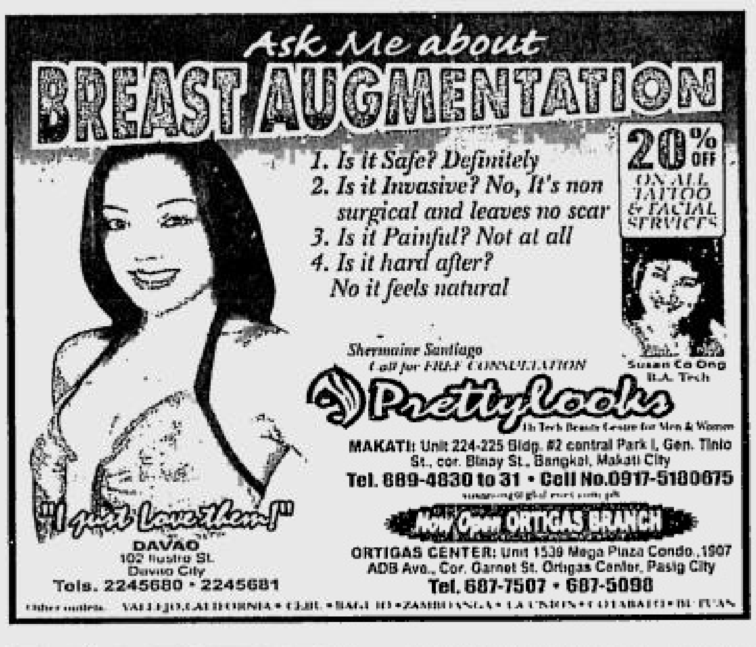
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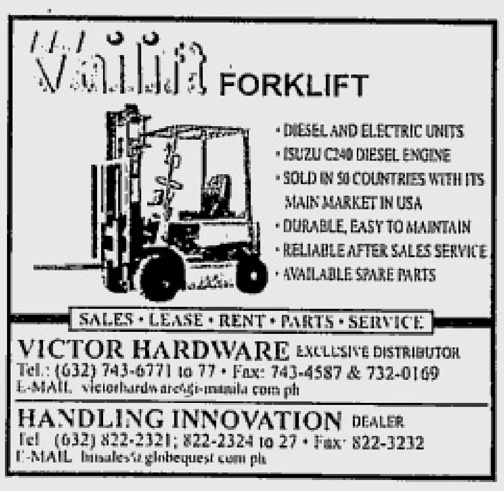
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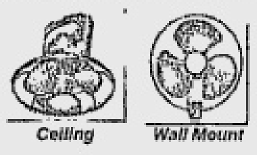

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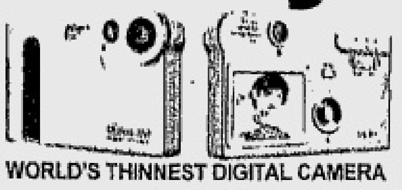

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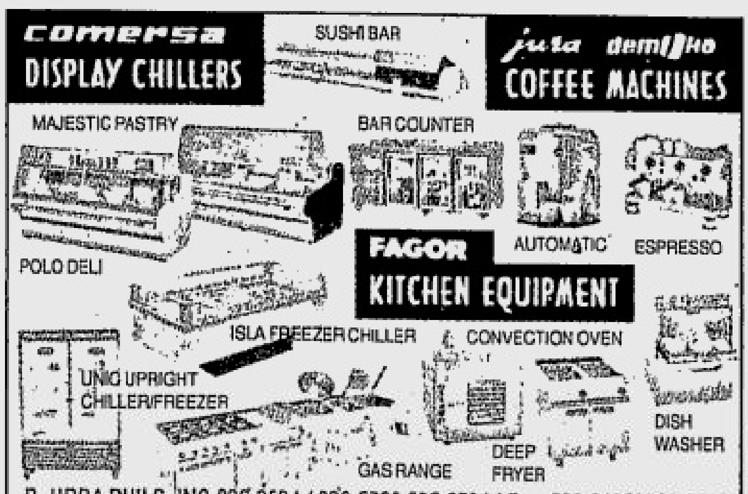

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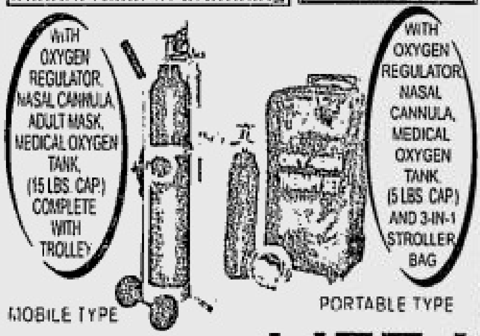
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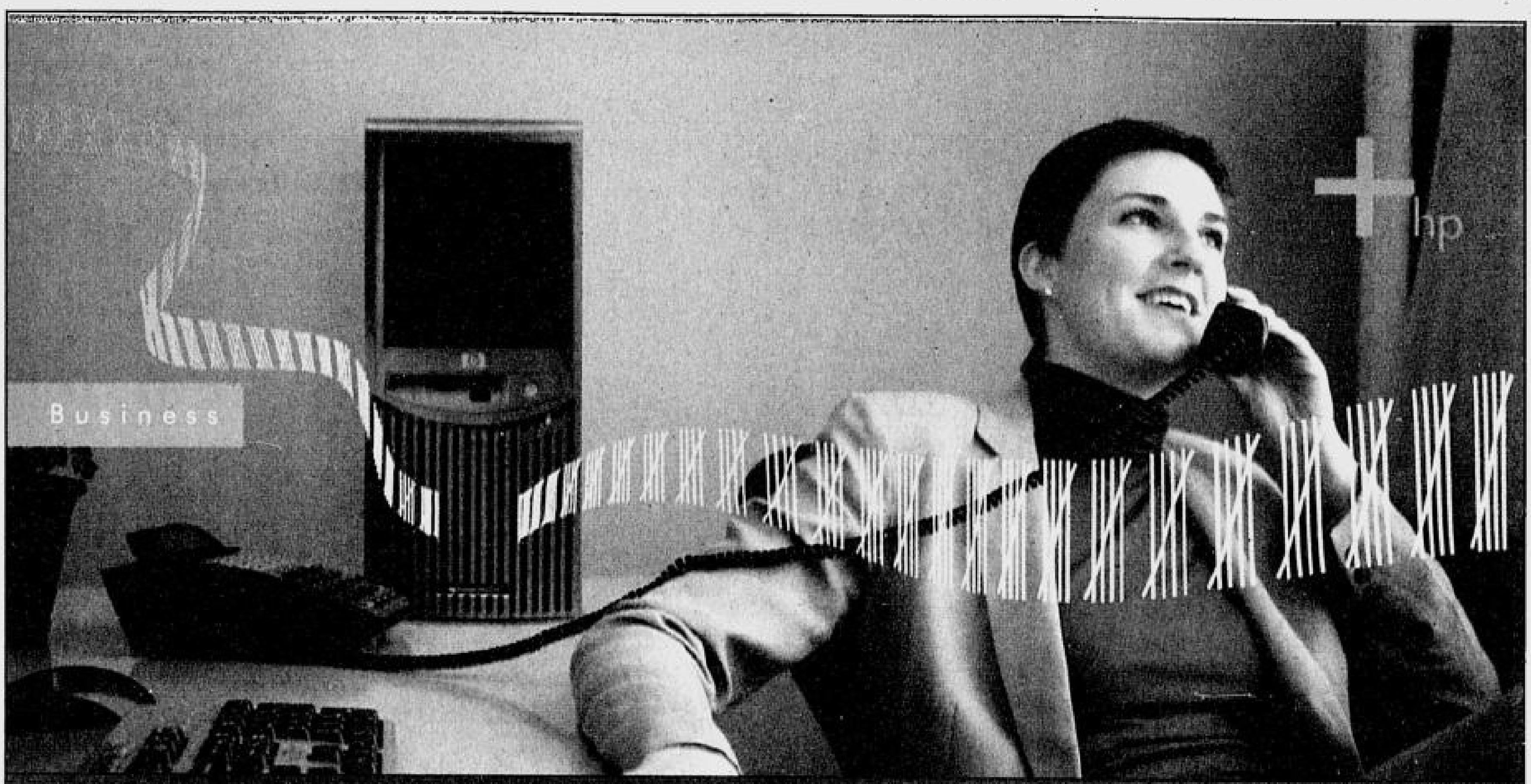

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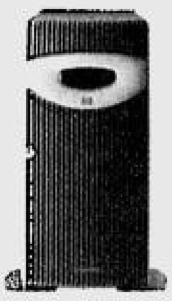

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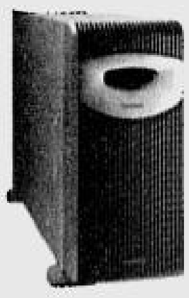

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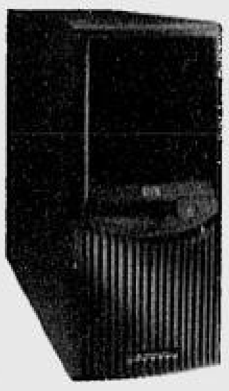

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From page A1

from the large segment of the public. The political class is the one that defines the agenda of political discourse, and yet its agenda does not reflect the anxieties of the governed.

The concern over the economy is echoed in the mood of the business community, said to be the engine of growth, which comprises the A-B socioeconomic class. It is the business community, more than the middle class, that is most outspoken about the debilitating impact on the economy of political volatility fueled by the salience of news on coup and coup plots and on corruption scandals.

It is by no means coincidental that as the nation moves closer toward elections in May, which is only eight months away, coups and legislative and even newspaper investigations of corruption have even gained higher salience in the priorities of the political class and the media.

If we make a close examination of the costs of corruption to the economy in terms of leakage of badly needed resources for national development and the costs to the economy of the disruptive impact of investigations into corruption on public business, we will find on balance that the costs of disruption will be more than the costs of leakage. This is not a brief for closing our eyes to corruption, but rather this is merely an assessment of relative costs.

The flurry of corruption exposés and of coup plot reports—which are interrelated themes—in the media is driven by the poisonous political climate in the run-up to the May elections.

A recent meeting recently of retired and active military officers was enough to generate rumors of another coup in the making, causing another round of jitters in the nervous business community and sending the peso exchange rate to the US dollar sliding further downhill.

At the back of the failed July 27 failed coup looms a basic issue that fans the fire of military interventionism, i.e., the issue of legitimacy of the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who took office through the extra-electoral route. The military in this country since the fall of the Marcos dictatorship has determined its loyalty to a sitting regime on the basis of its own perception of the regime's legitimacy. Thus, when the Marcos and Estrada administrations lost their legitimacy, in the eyes of the military, the soldiers defected from them, breaking what they fondly call the "chain of command."

Although it was the military defection from the Estrada administration that provoked its collapse and that ensured the transfer of power to then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo, the officer corps are keenly aware of the questions of illegitimacy raised against the Macapagal administration by the cohorts of the deposed Estrada administration. These doubts keep the interventionist impulses smoldering in the military establishment and are the spawning grounds of plots that regularly find their way into the media, which are only too eager to lap up conspiracy reports.

Poll affirmation

So long as the question of the Macapagal administration's legitimacy is not resolved by democratic elections in May, it will continue to be threatened by coup plots and the wavering, if not uncertain, loyalty of the Armed Forces. The military is in need of a definitive affirmation of regime legitimacy—through elections—to calm down its restiveness, for it is easier to demand loyalty from the military if a regime has an electoral mandate that validates the constitutional proviso that civil authority has primacy over the military.

Lacking this mandate, the Macapagal administration's claim to legitimacy sounds hollow to the military and to its political adversaries who have not left any stone unturned to bring about its early demise, including staging rebellions on the back of the poor and giving material aid to coup attempts, as in the case of the July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

Whether another coup will succeed begs the question. Before the soldiers mount another coup before the elections, it is quite certain that it will not have public support and the military should not ignore a very recent public opinion survey, by Pulse Asia, that six out of 10 Filipinos reject martial law or its variant—a military junta. At this point of febrile nervousness over coup rumors that constantly sweep the country, Filipinos are weary of disturbances.

The people are looking forward to the elections as a peaceful and democratic mechanism to resolve the legitimacy impasse. Their message that the nation has to wait for a few more months—if they want to have an administration change and they won't have any more of the Macapagal administration. So, if there's another coup attempt, it would be considered a frustration of the popular mode for change.

Political opposition

The military's perception of legitimacy is sensitive to efforts in the political sector to damage further the administration's legitimacy through a barrage of exposés of alleged corruption seeking to link the President directly by focussing the charges on her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo. In pushing these charges—unfounded so far—in Senate investigations, opponents, calling themselves the opposition, have an eye on undercutting military support for the administration.

It seems to me that Senators Panfilo Lacson's and Sergio Osmena III's exposés seek to create further political damage to the Macapagal administration such that their barrage would cripple her chances of winning in 2004. Their charges are unlikely to lead to impeachment, which seems to be the direction—a tedious process that cannot be compressed in eight months. The purpose of impeachment is to remove a sitting President from office. If they can just wait for another eight months, the opposition politicians will have a chance to block her from extending her term.

My argument is that to clear up the destabilizing uncertainties over coup plots, it is terribly important that Ms Macapagal declare in categorical terms whether she will run in 2004. Then, the issues will be joined.

Whether she wins or not is less important. Such a declaration will give the people, including her political adversaries, a choice and an alternative to her. It will drive the political contention to the electoral arena, which will decide the legitimacy issue once and for all. It will clear the way for an exit from the current impasse over legitimacy, and pull the rug out from under the opportunities for coup making and scandal mongering.

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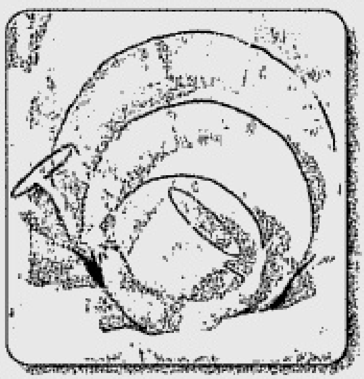

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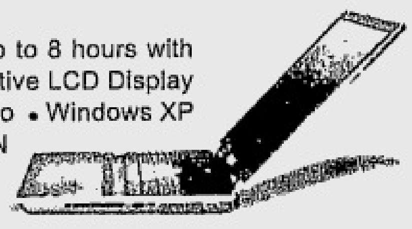

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE/ JUNK ITEMS AND USED TRANSFORMER OIL
"AS IS, WHERE IS AND TAKE ALL" BASIS
DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 07, 2003; 2:00 PM

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the sale of following items:

	ITEMS DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	One (1) lot approximately 12 tons of Wire Rope (16 rolls/bundle) Located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, Calaca, Batangas	P 3.00/kg.
2.	One (1) lot of unserviceable Conveyor Belt, approximately 16,400 kg. located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, Calaca, Batangas	P 5.00/kg.
3.	One (1) lot scrap plant/engine parts and radiators, tower parts, air condition approximately 100 tons, located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, Calaca, Batangas	P 5.00/kg.
4.	One (1) lot of non-moving/unserviceable stock items such as bearing/ flanges, obsolete engine & car parts/accessories and other non-valuable items 13 pallets approximately 1000 kgs. located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 3.00/kg.
5.	One (1) lot unserviceable/scrap assorted printer cartridge & ribbons located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 4,000.00/lot
6.	One (1) lot scrap/unserviceable vehicle & heavy equipment approximately 17.5 tons located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 5.00/kg.
7.	One (1) lot assorted used/unserviceable tires, 271 pcs. located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 5,420.00/lot
8.	One (1) lot unserviceable/scrap computer, printer, keyboard, CPU, laboratory oven & equipment approximately 2 tons, located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 6,000.00/lot
9.	One (1) lot used/unserviceable batteries, 24 pcs. located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 50.00/pc.
10.	One (1) lot unserviceable power cables, 3 reels, 750 meters, approximately 5.35 tons located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 75.00/kg.
11.	One (1) lot used transformer oil, approximately 25,000 liters located at Botocan HEP, Majayjay, Laguna	P 200,000.00/lot
12.	One (1) lot unserviceable power and telephone cables located at Bataan TPP, Limay, Bataan	P 1,192,083.00/lot

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 p.m. of October 07, 2003 at the Materials Management Department Office, Ground Floor, Bldg. I, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read. For bid forms at P500.00 per set, additional information and request for inspection, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call telephone no. 922-8431 or 924-5384. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 4:30 p.m. on October 06, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE;
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY).

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposal as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - Sept. 21, 22 & 23, 2003)

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OVERNIGHT MT SORAK
DAY 03 MT SORAK -SUANBO (B.L.D)
AFTER BREAKFAST PROCEED TO
SUANBO VISIT KOSU CAVE
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DAY 04 SEOUL (B.L.D)
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Publisher recalls anti-Marcos ...

From page A1

resolute that the dictatorship had to label the freedom fighters "steak commandos."

Exile was no picnic. It meant years of agonizing and desperate struggle against the dictatorship and its atrocities, among the most terrible of which was the murder of Marsman Alvarez. Aiming to sow terror and cow the will of Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez, a leading figure of the exile movement, the regime seized his brother, hideously tortured and bludgeoned him to death, and threw his mangled body into a churchyard.

This tragedy for the Alvarez family was further compounded by the death from a heart attack of Sonny's father during the funeral of Marsman. Sonny's mother and brother Abraham went into catatonic shock. Despite his pain, Sonny did not lose his nerve; nor did it shake his resolve. On the contrary, it clarified his focus and will to go on.

The exile movement was composed of like-minded people who found strength in each other's sense of certitude in the final success of their effort—Raul Manglapus, Ka Pepe Calderon, Boni Gillego, Steve Psinakis, Danny Lamila, Ric Manapat, Manoling Maravilla, Sultan Rashid Lucman, Charlie Avila, Fernando Peña, Soc Rodrigo and his sons, Raul Daza, Steve Legasto, Fred Dunca, Geny Lopez, Roy Sangil, Cesar Arellano, the Pedrosas, the Tacas and many more who kept faith. All of us, just as many in the home front, put our lives and fortunes on the line.

In highlighting the role of Sonny, I do not mean to downplay the role of the others. But as the one who has stayed in public service for 17 years after the dictatorship, Sonny symbolizes the trials and the triumphs of what was in all of them—the single-minded dedication to and certitude in the nobility of their cause.

Birth of MFP

Manglapus and Alvarez founded the Movement for a Free Philippines, the first Philippine exile movement. Sonny, who served as the MFP secretary general, held office at the National Press Club building in Washington, D.C. The objective of the democratic opposition in exile was the withdrawal of US economic and military aid to Marcos as these served to prop up the dictatorship.

Sonny became a full-time lobbyist in the US Congress. He became an intimate of key US legislators like Ted Kennedy, Richard Lugar, Stephen Solarz and John Kerry. He could call them directly by phone. Their support would prove to be invaluable.

After Ninoy was assassinated in August 1983, Sonny founded the Ninoy Aquino Movement, using the martyrdom as a driving force to unify various groups abroad to bring down Marcos. One of the key activities of the NAM was to document the billions of dollars in Marcos hidden wealth.

Sonny directed the search and the voluminous documents and evidence accumulated were shared with the San Jose Mercury News, whose exposé earned a Pulitzer Prize for the paper. The exposé generated strong public outrage against the regime both at home and with the US public. The Fund for Free Expression recognized Sonny's efforts by giving him the UN Human Rights Day Award in December 1985.

The snap election that Marcos called was itself partly the result of the efforts of the exile movement to influence the US leadership in Congress and the White House, particularly then President Ronald Reagan, by forcing it to confront the morality of propping up a regime that practiced terror and torture as instruments of governance. Marcos would thereafter be under intense pressure from US leaders to put his legitimacy to the test through the ballot.

As we all know, the snap election paved the way for the Edsa People Power Revolution.

As we mark the dark day when martial law was proclaimed, and as we witness the workings of our far-from-perfect democracy, it is fitting to recognize the efforts and sacrifices of those who paid their dues—and paid dearly—that we may be free again.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 22, 2003
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezra 1:1-6
Gospel: Lk 8:16-18

Jesus said to his disciples, "No one, after lighting a lamp covers it with a bowl or puts it under the bed; rather he puts it on a lampstand so that people coming in may see the light. In the same way, there is nothing hidden that shall not be uncovered; nothing kept secret that shall not be known clearly. Now, take care how well you listen, for whoever produces will be given more, but from those who do not produce, even what they seem to have will be taken away from them."

Commentary

"No one, after lighting a lamp covers it with a bowl ..." A lighthouse without a light is useless to boats and ships. An airport runway without lights at night would make aircraft landing extremely dangerous. Christians without life witnessing are likened to lamps without lights. They are useless, destined to the garbage heap. Someone says that the world today is tired of many words, tired of so many promises, tired of so many good intentions. What the world needs now are solid life witnesses, concrete liberating actions, saving gestures of love, works of justice and peace. What is the quality of your light?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW/COMMERCIAL LAW (TRANSPORTATION LAW)—Utmost diligence exercised by a common carrier—The law requires common carriers to carry passengers safely using the utmost diligence of very cautious persons with due regard for all circumstances. Such duty of a common carrier to provide safety to its passengers so obligates it not only during the course of the trip but for so long as the passengers are within its premises and where they ought to be in pursuance to the contract of carriage. The statutory provisions render a common carrier liable for death of or injury to passengers (a) through the negligence or wilful acts of its employees or (b) on account of wilful acts or negligence of other passengers or of strangers if the common carrier's employees through the exercise of due diligence could have prevented or stopped the act or omission. In case of such death or injury, a carrier is presumed to have been at fault or been negligent, and by simple proof of injury, the passenger is relieved of the duty to still establish the fault or negligence of the carrier or of its employees and the burden shifts upon the carrier to prove that the injury is due to an unforeseen event or to force majeure. In the absence of satisfactory explanation by the carrier on how the accident occurred, which petitioners, according to the appellate court, have failed to show, the presumption would be that it has been at fault, an exception from the general rule that negligence must be proved. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, First Division, Light Rail Transit Authority v. Navidad, G.R. No. 145804, February 6, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

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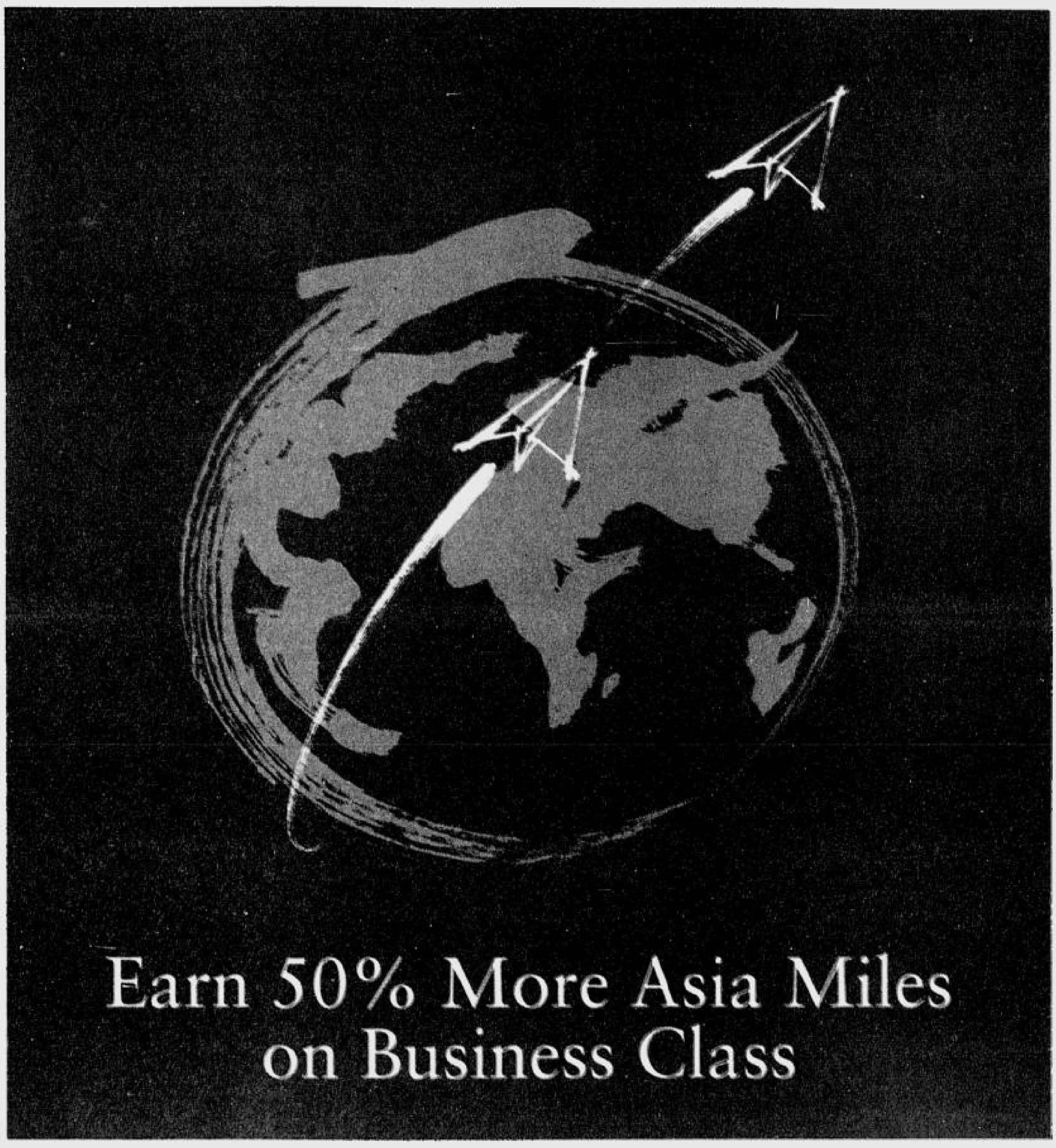

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DOJ to pursue probe vs Honasan

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice will proceed with its investigation into the alleged involvement of opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan in the July 27 failed Oakwood mutiny even if the former RAM leader fails to submit a counter-affidavit.

Honasan has until tomorrow to file his counter affidavit.

In a statement, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary for legal and legislative affairs Agnes Devanadera said Honasan has ignored charges filed against him before the DOJ because he was aware of the strong evidence proving his participation in the Oakwood rebellion.

The DILG oversees the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police which has filed additional affidavits to bolster its case against Honasan.

Devanadera said the PNP's evidence against Honasan included footage from two videotapes from the closed-circuit TV of the Oakwood hotel which would prove that the evidence against Honasan and the rogue soldiers was authentic and not planted.

Honasan, who was one of those who negotiated the surrender of the rebels, went into hiding after he was accused of masterminding the plot to overthrow the government.

He surfaced almost a month later at the Senate but has not attended its sessions since then.

According to Devanadera, the National Bureau of Investigation has further strengthened its case against the Oakwood mutiny leaders with supplemental affidavits that showed that there were not just five but 56 leaders of the group.

The new evidence was obtained from a case filed against Army Capt. Milo Maestrecampo and other members of the rebel group before the Makati Regional Trial Court.

Devanadera said the large number of mutiny leaders proved that the Oakwood rebellion was well planned and not a spontaneous action as claimed by the Magdalo soldiers.

"These leaders engaged in the recruitment of soldiers who showed up at Oakwood as well as lined up rebel support outside Oakwood," Devanadera said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Pagcor: No mismanagement

From page A1

valuable asset, salaries were realigned in June 2001, King said. The employees were also given a 5-percent across-the-board increase in basic pay in September of the same year.

"You cannot isolate a statistic such as an increase in the number of personnel without considering the productivity of those personnel. What is important are the incremental benefits and not raw figures," King said.

"To imply that the increase in personnel is unnecessary and to brand it as mismanagement simply because it means additional outlay for employee salaries, bonuses and other benefits could possibly mean a lack of understanding of financial tools and management principles or perhaps the intentional failure of certain parties to thoroughly analyze the statistics in order to mislead the public," he added.

If salaries and benefits of personnel are treated as a percentage of Pagcor's total income, compensation actually decreased (19.9 percent in 2000, 18.2 percent in 2001 and 19.09 percent in 2002), King said.

He noted that the gaming firm's income increased from P12.24 billion in 2000 to P17.33 billion in 2001 and to P20.12 billion in 2002, or an aggregate increase of P7.88 billion or 64 percent during Genuino's first two years of stewardship.

"Although Pagcor increased the number of employees, the corporation's income on a per employee basis, with 2000 as base year (before Genuino's term), shows an increase of P285,607. This shows greater productivity and better management, not mismanagement," King said.

No profligate spending

The allegation that Pagcor is giving away "massive and mindless donations" is not true, according to King. A percentage of total income, expenses incurred for these donations or sponsorships actually decreased from the 2-percent level in 2000 to less than one percent (0.9 percent) in 2001. For 2002, only 1.3 percent of the company's total income went to donations.

"Part of Pagcor's mandate is to help the government address the needs of the poor and the needy. The majority of the projects being sponsored by Pagcor now, such as medical and health missions, disaster relief operations, and projects that promote peace and order, have been benefiting thousands of our countrymen," King said.

He said many of the new corporate vehicles were procured as replacements for old models dating to as far back as 1986.

Further, "we would like to take exception to the claim that most of the newly acquired cars were for personal use. On the contrary, these vehicles are essential to match our expanding operations," he said.

King said 641 officers were entitled to the company's car plan benefit, a policy which has been in place since the previous administration.

In June 2001, he said, the price caps for the car plan benefits of all officers increased to correspond with current market prices.

Bank loans

"While it is true that the cap on the price of vehicles covered by the car plan was increased in June 2003 for senior Pagcor officers, most of them cannot avail themselves of such privilege as they are currently paying off their loans from earlier car plans," King said.

King said the loans that were drawn by Pagcor from the Philippine National Bank and the Land Bank of the Philippines were used for casino leasehold improvements and capital expenditures. "We would like to reiterate that we, as a matter of policy, do not borrow money to fund operational expenses," he said.

"To say that Pagcor can be considered illiquid based on the acid test ratio is inaccurate and misleading—in fact, it is not even applicable to the nature of Pagcor operations," King said.

"Unlike ordinary businesses or corporations, Pagcor's income is subject to several mandated remittances to different government agencies before it can be used for operating expenses. Then, whatever is left is turned over to the Presidential Social Fund. No cash is left with Pagcor and it starts each month with a clean slate, no cash on hand," he said.

King also addressed other issues raised in the INQUIRER special report.

In April and May, Pagcor suffered a drop in revenues due to the SARS epidemic and other external factors. This forced the gaming firm to resort to some forms of belt-tightening.

"We had to let go of some contractual employees who did seasonal work for the company. We also had to freeze hiring and promotions as part of expense-cutting measures," King said.

He said the so-called spike in operating expenses could be seen as a result of the temporary decrease in revenues. "Our level of operating expenses has been relatively constant over the years. However, the decline in our income consequently results in the increase in comparative percentage of operating expenses," he said.

King noted that Pagcor revenues in the past few months had shown signs of recovery, with its casinos operating within its targets. However, the company has to work harder to make up for lost ground in the early part of the year because of SARS so that the year's income target will be met.

"With Genuino's leadership, the board's support, and the hard work and dedication of Pagcor employees, we are still optimistic," he said.

Nikki, govs …

From page A1

Coseteng, outperformed them all. Escorted by Gov. Antonio Kho of Masbate, Coseteng had her own *cristos* and *casadors*—aides who placed bets, found matches, and paid and collected for her.

To the local aficionados, the scene at the jampacked Caceres Sports Arena was surreal, with Gov. Al Francis Bichara of Albay, Gov. Typoco of Camarines Norte, Kho and Coseteng seated behind P50,000, P20,000 and P10,000 stacks of cold cash on their tables.

This was to facilitate turnover and change: for a half-million peso bet, the players would just move ten P50,000 stacks, or 25 P20,000 stacks.

"It was mind-boggling," said Dave Dollano, commentator of radio station dzGE. "These politicians ... just seemed to be throwing away so much money, while I have only P1,500 in my pocket for the *travesia* (individual side betting)."

He would like to know how they do it without batting an eyelash, Dollano said. Better yet, he would like to see big-time derby checks included in the ongoing government lifestyle audits.

The Caceres derby was held on Sept. 18, eve of the culmination of the weeklong event, the only regional fiesta in the country.

According to Prof. Danilo Gerona, a Bicol historian, the derby or *pintakasi* has been the main attraction of the festival since the Spanish colonial period.

Gerona said it was the friars' way of encouraging people in the surrounding areas—especially the upper crust of society who loved to show off their wealth—to converge on the Archdiocese of Caceres.

Aside from the big cockfight, the historian noted, the friars mounted *moro-moro* (stage plays) for a little entertainment, the better to lure devotees down from the mountains and make them stay till the end of the celebration. These diversions were woven into the ceremonial calendar, Gerona said, along with Holy Masses and other church rituals.

As they still are today. And this year, a little entertainment was inadvertently incorporated in the big cockfight.

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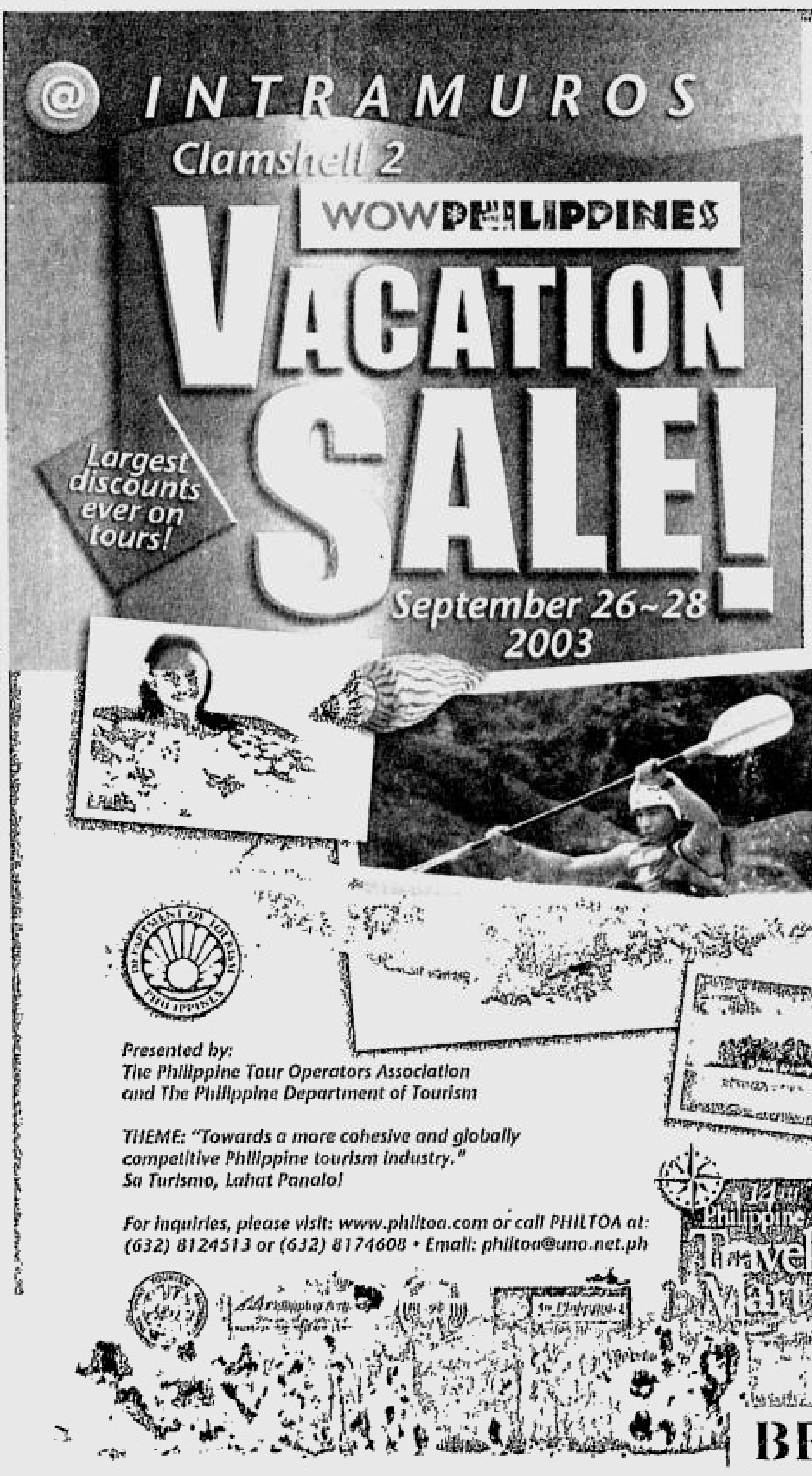

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UK, France, Germany still disagree on Iraq

Technicalities, timetable bone of contention

BERLIN—Europe's three biggest powers tried to mend their rift over Iraq on Saturday but disagreed on how fast the United States should hand back sovereignty to the Iraqi people.

"Our views are not quite convergent," French President Jacques Chirac said after a Berlin summit with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"On the technicalities and timetable, we are still not fully agreed," the French leader added.

Chirac and Schroeder, fierce opponents of the US-led war that toppled Saddam Hussein, now want a much more influential role for the United Nations and a faster handover of power to Iraqis.

"It's important to give the United Nations a bigger role," Schroeder said.

France and Germany are both members of the UN Security Council, where Washington is seeking a fresh resolution to persuade other countries to share the financial and military burden of stabilizing and rebuilding Iraq.

Chirac restated France's position that Iraq, now under US administration, must regain sovereignty within months. US Secretary of State Colin Powell has ridiculed the notion that Washington could hand back power overnight.

Blair, by contrast, was keen to stress the common ground between the three leaders.

"We all want to see a stable Iraq. We all want to see Iraq make a transition to democratic government as swiftly as possible. We all want to see, and know there must be, a key role for the United Nations," he said.

"I think whatever the different positions on the conflict, the entire world has an interest in seeing those things happen.

For myself, I am sure that whatever differences there are, they can be resolved, and I am sure they will be." The brief summit offered an opportunity for all sides to mend relations that were badly damaged by Blair's unswerving support—political and military—for the US-led invasion of Iraq in March.

But the political differences were reflected in the body language: Schroeder's polite welcoming handshake with Blair was conspicuously cooler than his jovial backslapping with Chirac.

"We can't really say this was a big day for Europe," said European political analyst Sabine von Oppeln from Berlin's Free University. "It really does sound like there was no real agreement. Both Chirac and Schroeder said more discussion was needed on Iraq, for example."

With financial costs mounting and its 130,000 troops in Iraq under daily guerrilla attack, Washington urgently needs other countries to help share the burden. President George W. Bush last week sent Congress an $87-billion plan to fund military operations and reconstruction efforts.

A fresh UN mandate could not only help to mend the rift between Washington and London, on the one side, and Berlin and Paris, on the other. It could also pave the way for countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh or Turkey to contribute troops.

Chirac and Schroeder are both due to meet Bush next week at the United Nations in New York, and the question of Iraq is set to dominate those meetings.

Bush and Blair sent their troops to invade Iraq in March, accusing Saddam of developing weapons of mass destruction.

France and Germany opposed the war, arguing UN inspectors should have been allowed more time to scour Iraq for evidence of the alleged weapons programs. *Reuters*

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3 US soldiers killed, 13 hurt in new attacks

BAGHDAD—Three American soldiers were killed and 13 injured in a mortar attack and a bombing in central Iraq, the US military reported Sunday. The deaths followed an assassination attempt against a member of Iraq's Governing Council.

Two soldiers from the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade died and 13 were wounded when two mortars hit an Army encampment at the Abu Ghraib prison on the western outskirts of Baghdad about 9:54 p.m. Saturday. Thirteen soldiers were injured in the attack. No prisoners were injured.

Shortly before the Abu Ghraib shelling, a soldier from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was killed when his Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb near Ramadi, about 100 kilometers west of the capital, the military said.

The deaths brought to 165 the number of American soldiers killed in Iraq since May 1 when President George W. Bush declared that major fighting was over.

The latest American deaths followed an assassination attempt Saturday on Aquila al-Hashimi, one of three women on the 25-member Governing Council and a strong candidate to become Iraq's representative at the United Nations.

Recovering

Al-Hashimi, a Shiite Muslim and career diplomat, was seriously wounded by six gunmen in a pickup truck who chased her car on Saturday. The assailants escaped.

Al-Hashimi underwent a second operation and was in stable condition at a military hospital on the grounds of one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces where the Coalition Provisional Authority has its headquarters, an official with the US-led civilian administration said on Sunday.

She had been preparing to leave for a key UN General Assembly meeting in New York on Tuesday. Major US allies are pressing for Washington to give the UN a greater role in bringing stability to this fractured country.

The Governing Council president, Ahmad Chalabi, blamed Saddam loyalists for the shooting. *AP*

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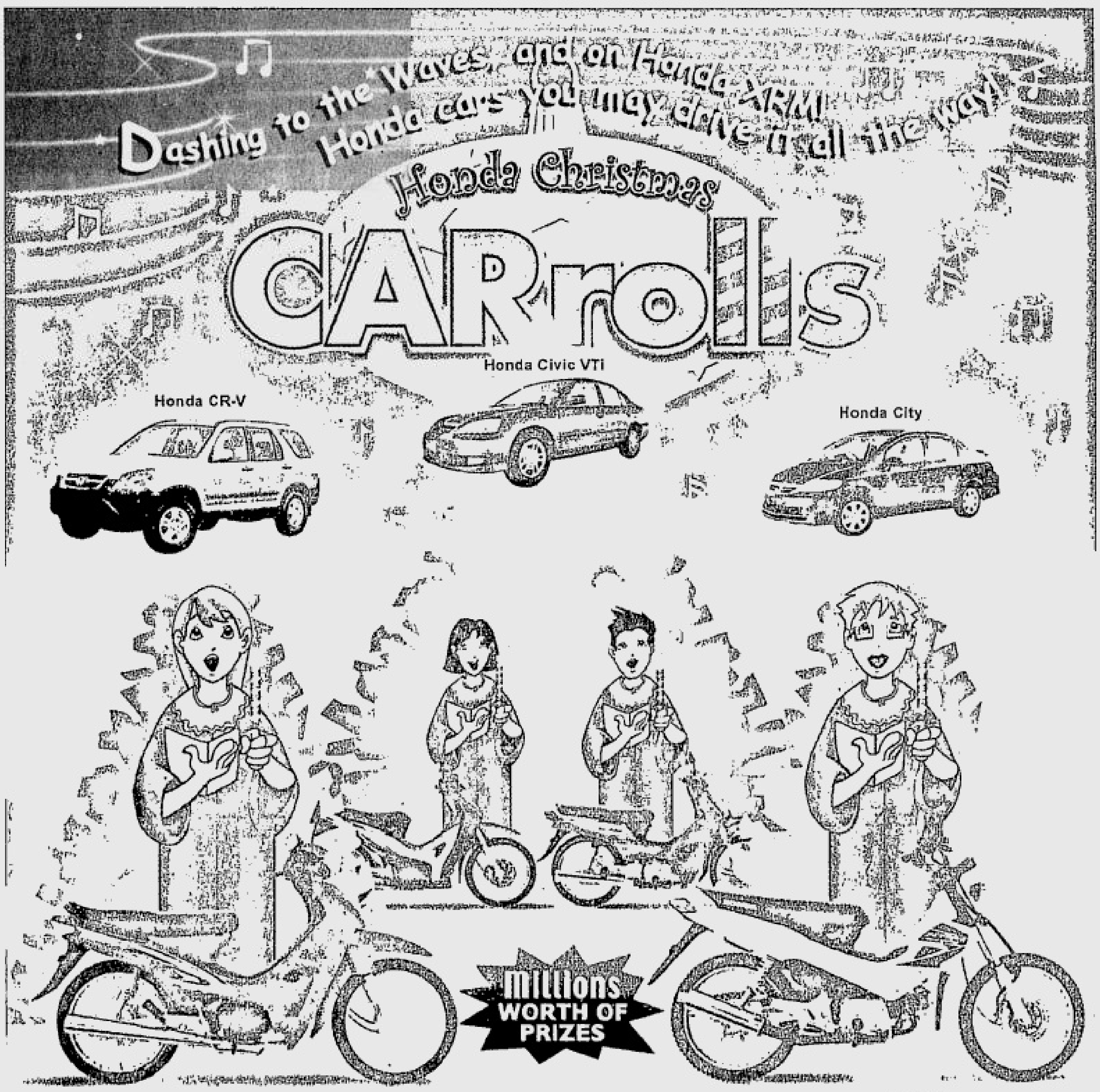

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2 Grand Raffle Draw will be held in Eat Bulaga on December 18, 2003 under the supervision of a DTI representative. Deadline for dropping of entries is on December 15, 2003.

Purchase of the Honda motorcycle models, indicated above, must be made at any participating Honda dealer nationwide from September 10, 2003 up to December 15, 2003 in order to qualify for the promo.

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11 Promo period is from September 10, 2003 up to December 15, 2003. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3768, Series of 2003

SOCIETY WEDDING OF THE YEAR
Kate Rothschild (left) and Ben Goldsmith emerge from St Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, eastern England, after their wedding ceremony, September 20. The wedding, which is being heralded as the society wedding of the year, sees the union of two of Britain's richest dynasties. REUTERS

Hambali planned to bomb embassies, hit airliners

BANGKOK—Alleged terror chief Hambali has admitted planning to bomb embassies and use missiles to attack commercial airliners in Bangkok, said a Thai security official involved in his August arrest.

"During interrogation, Hambali admitted that he was preparing to bomb (backpacker area) Khao San Road, and the embassies of the United States, Israel and Japan," the source said, adding that he had already scouted the sites.

"He was also planning to use missiles to attack planes at Bangkok International Airport," the source told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The source said the attacks were not necessarily timed for the October 20-21 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, when 21 leaders including US President George W. Bush will converge on the Thai capital.

"He said that the planned attacks could have been executed as soon as he was ready, not necessarily during the APEC summit," he said, referring to reports the attacks were planned to disrupt the meeting.

Asia's most wanted man was arrested in Thailand on August 11 during a raid on his modest rented apartment in the central town of Ayutthaya.

Hambali is believed to be the Asian pointman for the Al-Qaeda group which is blamed for the September 11 attacks on the United States, and the operations chief of Jemaah Isyamiyah (JI), a Southeast Asian terror network accused of carrying out last October's Bali bombings and a string of other attacks.

According to the well-placed source, Hambali was lured outside his six-story apartment building by Thai combined special forces, after a 20-strong team surrounded the building.

"Four people actually made the arrest... Another group went up to his room to arrest his wife," the source said, adding that Hambali attempted to fire his handgun at his captors as they overpowered him.

The Thai forces found an unspecified number of firearms, explosive materials and bomb-making instructions at the apartment, he said.

"We handed over Hambali to US authorities after he was questioned by Thai security officials for more than one week," he said. *AFP*

Suu Kyi may be shifted to home during recovery

BANGKOK—Aung San Suu Kyi's recovery from surgery may provide Burma's (Myanmar's) generals with a face-saving way of shifting the pro-democracy leader from secret detention to house arrest, analysts and diplomats said at the weekend.

The feisty opposition leader underwent a three-hour operation on Friday described as both major and semi-urgent by her personal physician Tin Myo Win, re-igniting international concerns about her health.

Dr. Tin Myo Win said Saturday she was recovering well after the surgery, carried out to treat gynecological and other unspecified conditions, and was walking around. He could not give a timeframe for her discharge.

Aung San Suu Kyi, 58, has been held incommunicado by Myanmar's military rulers at a secret location since being detained after her supporters were attacked by a junta-sponsored mob on May 30.

Since then and until her admission into the privately-run Asia Royal hospital Wednesday, the only outsiders to see the leader have been UN special envoy to Myanmar Razali Ismail and representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The ICRC last saw her on September 6 and said that she was "well."

Analysts are now anxiously waiting to see what the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), which has not yet commented on Aung San Suu Kyi's hospitalization, will do when she is deemed fit enough to leave the clinic.

"Nobody knows here what will happen after she recovers. We don't have any information or any indication (from the junta)," an Asian diplomat told AFP.

"They may say that for her to have good treatment, she should stay at her house rather than a government guest house."

The junta is under intense pressure from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to release Aung San Suu Kyi ahead of the regional grouping's summit in Bali on October 7. *AFP*

Bush rating on Iraq drops below 50 percent

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush's approval rating for his handling of the situation in Iraq has fallen below 50 percent, to 46 percent, for the first time in a Newsweek poll.

The poll, released Saturday, found the US president's approval rating on Iraq had declined a full five percentage points compared with a September 11-12 poll.

By comparison, 47 percent of those polled disapproved of Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq, an increase of five percentage points from the earlier survey.

Fifty-six percent of all those canvassed said the Bush administration is spending too much money in post-war Iraq, compared with 31 percent who judged the sums spent as just right.

Bush's overall approval rating has now dropped to 51 percent.

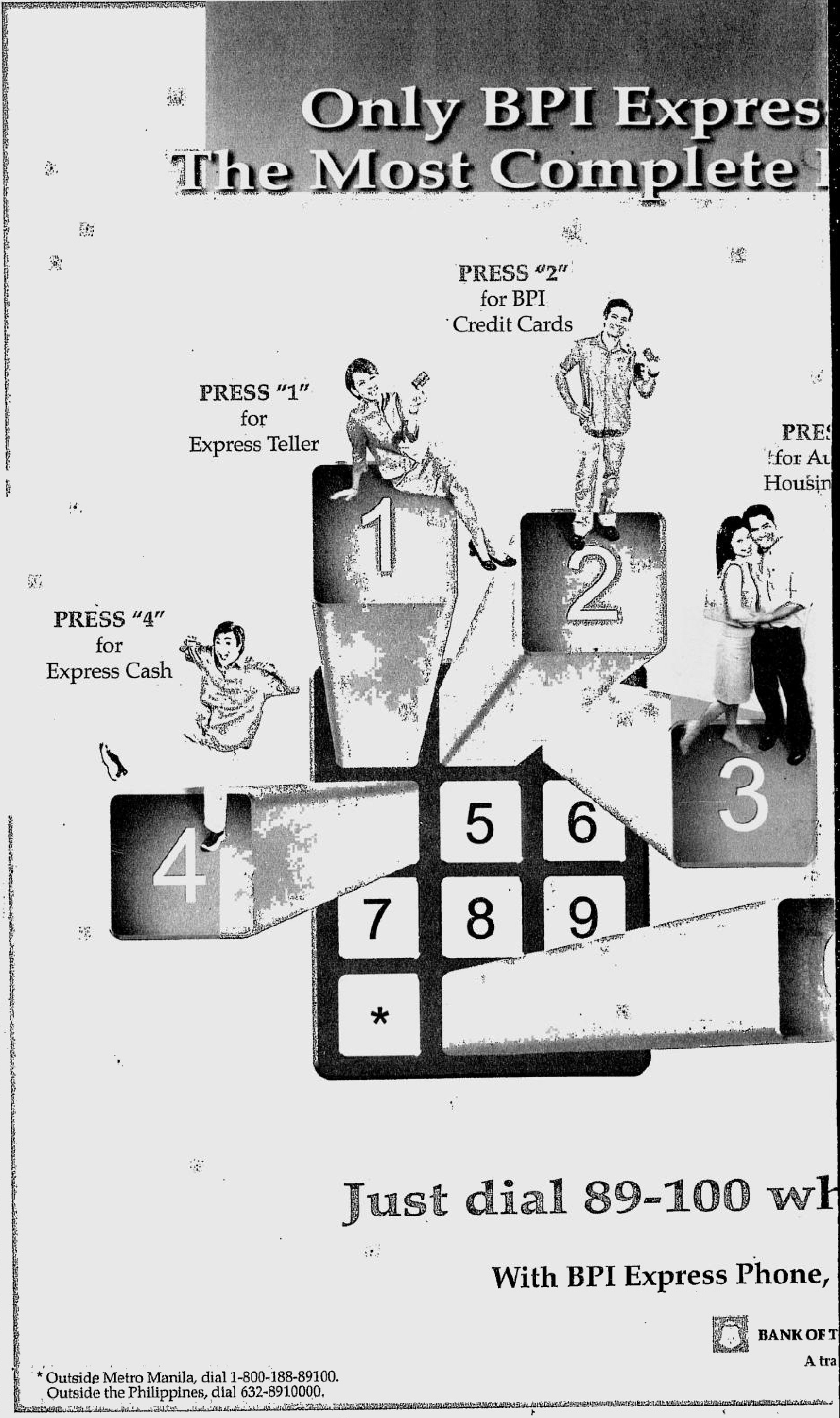
The poll also found that 50 percent of people canvassed do not want to see Bush reelected to a second term in the White House.

The president's approval ratings for his handling of other issues—most notably, the economy—have also declined, according to the poll.

On the economy, Bush's approval rating fell to 38 percent, from 41 percent in the prior poll, and disapproval of his economic management skills leapt six percentage points, to 57 percent.

The only area where Bush continued to show strong support was in his handling of anti-terrorism measures, in which he scored a 66 percent approval rating.

The figures come at a critical time for Bush, as he casts his eye forward to the 2004 presidential election, and as opposition Democratic presidential contenders ramp up their criticisms of him. *AFP*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India-Pakistan peace process seen faltering, not yet dead

NEW DELHI—A peace process between India and Pakistan is stumbling badly, but analysts say it is too early to declare it dead despite fresh violence in disputed Kashmir.

They say a South Asian regional summit due in Islamabad in January—coinciding with a traditional winter lull in fighting in Kashmir—still offers an opportunity to the nuclear-armed rivals to revive the process.

"The peace process has definitely faltered but I would not conclude that it is over," said Sundeep Waslekar from the International Centre for Peace Initiatives in Bombay.

He said he believed Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee was committed to moving ahead with the peace process and thereby winning a place in history.

Vajpayee, 78, said in May he would make one last bid for peace in his lifetime—understood to mean before national elections due in India next year.

India and Pakistan, which came close to war last year, then exchanged ambassadors in what was supposed to be the beginning of a step-by-step peace process leading ultimately to summit talks.

But they have gone back to hurling insults at each other over a new surge in violence in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state. New Delhi blames Islamabad for stoking a 14-year-old separatist revolt there, an accusation denied by Islamabad.

In a sign of how bad things have become, India said last week Pakistan Foreign Minister Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri was not welcome, days after he announced plans to visit India.

"The peace process is not dead, but it is limping along and nobody seems to be helping it at all," said South Asian defense specialist Brian Cloughley.

Bred on more than half a century of mistrust, both countries are predictably blaming the other for the stalled peace process.

Pakistani officials say India moved too slowly at the start, losing crucial momentum needed to clear away the bitter aftertaste of last year's near-war.

India blames Pakistan for allowing Pakistan-based militants to cross into Indian Kashmir, stoking violence there.

It refuses to talk to a country it says sponsors "terrorism," while Pakistan says India's refusal to give any ground makes it all the harder for it to curb the militant, or jihadi, groups.

"The logic was that there has to be a chance given to diplomacy. The fact is that diplomacy has not worked, so obviously it is natural that the jihadis would start acting on their own," said Pakistan's former intelligence chief Hamid Gul.

Reuters

HINDU FESTIVAL An Indian dancer in a traditional dress practices for the upcoming Hindu festival of "Navratri," or nine nights, in Ahmadabad, India, Sept. 21. During the annual Navratri festival starting Sept. 25, thousands are expected to participate in nine nights of dancing in colorful traditional costumes in western India's Gujarat state. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Latvia says Yes to EU entry

RIGA—The ex-Soviet republic of Latvia on Sunday celebrated voting to join the European Union and sealing the success of the bloc's plans to welcome 10 more nations, mostly ex-Soviet states, into the fold next May. Final official results announced by the election commission showed Latvians had voted overwhelmingly to join the bloc, with 67 percent voting Yes and 32.3 percent saying No, after votes from all 1,006 polling stations were counted. Popular pro-western president Vaira Vike-Freiberga, who has campaigned for her Baltic country to join the EU and Nato 13 years after restoring independence from the Soviet Union, quickly congratulated her compatriots for deciding to join the European bloc as the Yes vote emerged. *AFP*

US picks up after Isabel

WASHINGTON—Residents along the US East Coast late Saturday cleaned up Hurricane Isabel's billion-dollar havoc, as the death toll from the storm rose to 28 in seven eastern states and the nation's capital, the District of Columbia, federal officials said. But although the storm was now history, the officials warned the toll would likely rise as rescue workers probed regions where flood waters were receding. More than 2.5 million people remained without power in the affected area, he added. President George W. Bush Saturday declared the state of Delaware a disaster existed, making it eligible to apply for federal aid. He earlier made similar declarations for Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Washington, DC. *AFP*

US Army chaplain arrested

WASHINGTON—A Muslim US Army chaplain who counseled suspected al-Qaida militants at a prison camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is under arrest in the United States on suspicion of espionage, US officials said Saturday. Southern Command spokesperson Captain Thomas Crosson said the chaplain, Captain James Yee, a West Point Military Academy graduate, had been in military custody since September 10. But another US government official, who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity, said the main suspicion against Yee was espionage. The officials declined to say what kind of information the chaplain handled to justify the suspicion of espionage. But media reports said investigators had seized from him a detailed sketch of the detention facility and other confidential documents. *AFP*

Schroeder landslide defeat

MUNICH, Germany—German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats face their third major defeat this year on Sunday in a state election that Bavarian premier Edmund Stoiber is forecast to win by a landslide. Polls predict Stoiber's Christian Social Union (CSU), which has held power in the Alpine state of Bavaria for four decades, will increase its share of the vote to about 60 percent, while the Social Democrats (SPD) will struggle to top 20 percent. After heavy defeats in state polls in Hesse and Lower Saxony, another big loss would underline Schroeder's weak standing nationally and step up pressure as he attempts to steer an ambitious package of reforms through parliament this autumn. *Reuters*

Drinkers march to Munich

MUNICH, Germany—Thousands of beer drinkers from around the world, many in traditional Bavarian lederhosen, flocked to Munich on a sunny Saturday for the largest and most famous beer festival on earth, the Oktoberfest. Munich mayor Christian Ude opened the two-week festival at midday, cracking open the first 200-litre keg with the customary shout of "O'zapft is"—the keg is tapped. That was the signal for an army of brawny waitresses in traditional dirndl dresses to start heaving litre glasses of specially brewed lager to the thirsty crowds as oompah bands churned out endless jolly drinking songs. Outside in the brilliant sunshine, crowds eating sausages, ice cream or gingerbread strolled past fun rides and food stalls, while inside the tents, beer drinkers locked arms and roared along with the bands. "The mood is great, the weather, the atmosphere, everything's just right," said Alfred Niederreiter, on a visit to his home town with his wife after a decade of living in eastern Germany. By the time the 170[illegible] Oktoberfest ends on October 5, some six million visitors are expected to have passed through 14 enormous tents, each capable of holding up to 10,000 people at a time, and to have drunk over 5.5 million litres (1.453 million US gallons) of beer. *Reuters*

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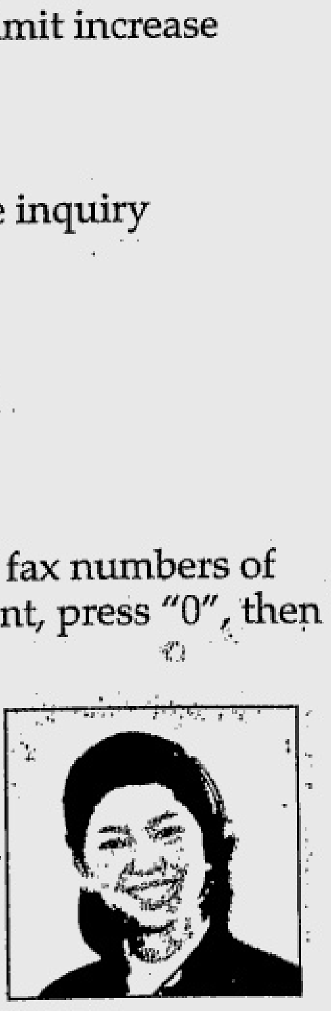

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EDITORIALS

Cash cow

IS it possible for a profitable company to be in serious financial difficulty? The answer is familiar to any first-year business student, struggling entrepreneur, or veteran corporate manager. If not managed well, a company can suffer cash flow problems at the exact time it is showing a profit.

Something like this is happening to the government-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., the country's most profitable company. To answer this cash crunch, Pagcor has resorted to borrowing well over P1 billion from government-controlled banks.

The loans may raise eyebrows, but they are not in themselves objectionable. What is a matter of grave concern, for both the Macapagal administration and the public, is how Pagcor, the government's third-largest revenue earner, found itself short of cash.

Both highly placed sources and key documents say Pagcor is in a cash bind—"highly illiquid," according to an executive at the gaming firm—because of four alleged factors: It entered into anomalous contracts, it saw a "surge" in new hires, it is guilty of "profligate spending," it spent "massive, mindless" amounts on donations outside its legislative mandate.

But on the day the INQUIRER I-Team report on Pagcor's financial condition came out, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a strong statement of support for the firm's management, saying: "I wish to dispel any impressions that this institution is a so-called cash cow that is unaccountable to the people and can be milked at will by those in power."

But what do you call a government unit that includes over 100 "consultants" on its payroll—over 90 percent of whom were hired only after January 2001? That was the month Ms Macapagal assumed office, the same month she named Efraim Genuino, a close friend of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, as Pagcor chair. These consultants—including a number of journalists—earn between P10,000 and P50,000 a month, and have cost Pagcor, by our estimate, a total of P75 million between January 2001 and June 2003.

Or what do you call a government-owned and-controlled corporation that spends P120 million in two and a half years to acquire over a hundred cars for the use of its officers? (Many of these officers, too, were hired only after January 2001.)

The list goes on, leading to the inevitable conclusion: Under Genuino's watch, the government's milking hand has been rather busy.

Sacred cow

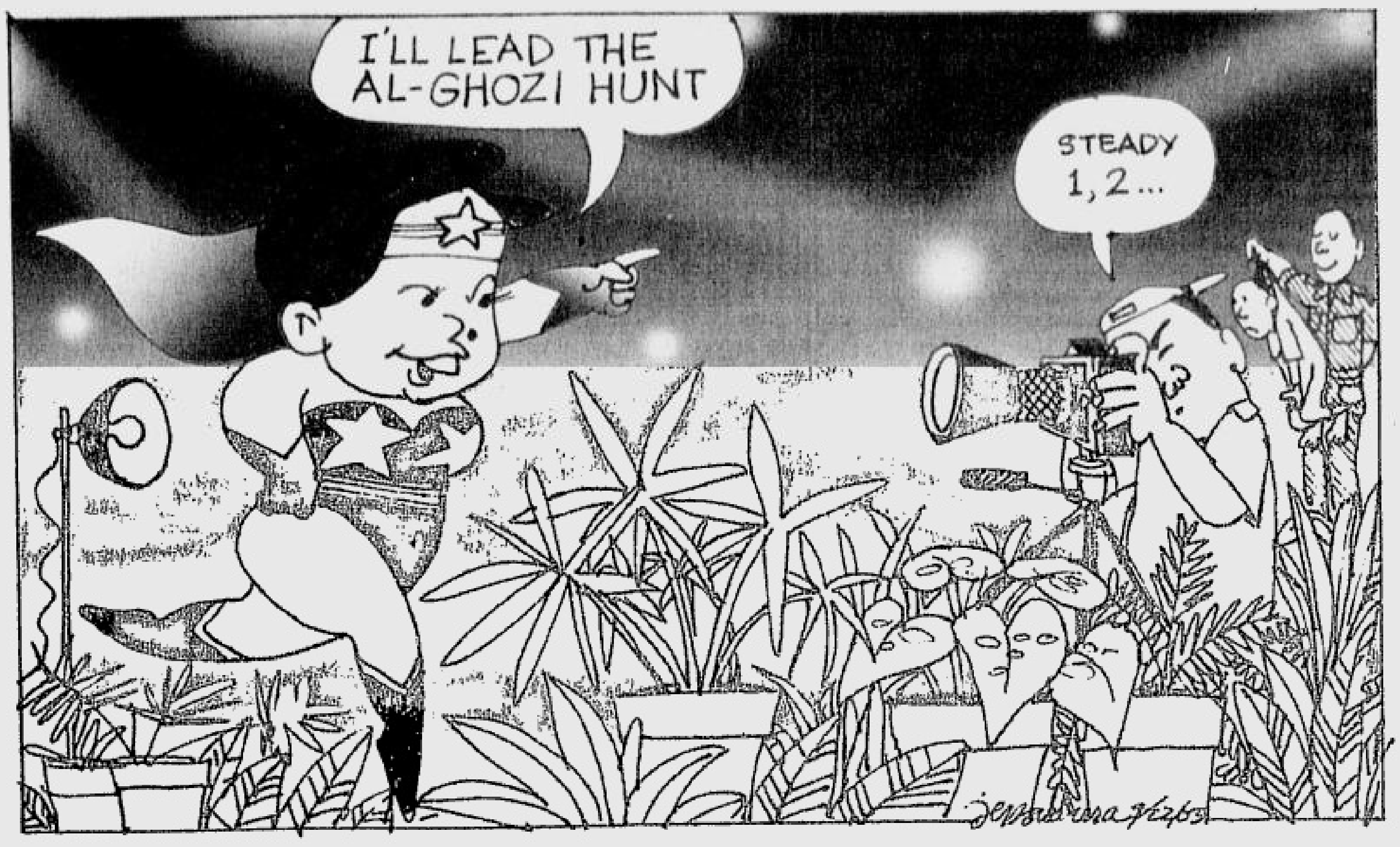
THE LEAST President Macapagal-Arroyo could have done, after the alleged financial crisis gripping the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. came to light, was to immediately order the chair of the state gaming firm to explain.

Instead, the President took it upon herself to issue a sweeping defense. Last Friday, she said Pagcor, under chair Efraim Genuino, was managed with the public interest in mind. "Pagcor is the source of social amelioration and relief for millions of Filipinos."

The President then added: "The financial state of Pagcor is open to the public. There is nothing furtive about its finances and these are bound by the rules of transparency and accountability."

The President's implied challenge of transparency will not help Genuino. On the contrary, it will force his hand to explain the unexplainable: why this "source of social amelioration" will end up remitting only about P500 million to the President's Social Fund, less than half of the previous year's total, or why remittances to various government projects as specified by Congress have not in fact been "automatic" but delayed, or why it thinks the Department of Social Welfare and Development cannot handle the P400 million a year that it is by law supposed to receive from Pagcor for the Early Child Care and Development program.

Pagcor's problem is not adverse publicity, as the President seems to think, and it is not the result of factionalism in the 11,000-man enterprise. The problem is more basic and more dire: cash mismanagement, dictated by priorities that can no longer be described as being in the public interest.


I'LL LEAD THE AL-GHOZI HUNT
STEADY 1, 2...

Graft would be worse in a parliamentary system

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CONGRESSMEN are getting desperate because time is running out on a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution before next year's national elections. Now they are proposing a transition president with a three-year term—instead of the full term of six years—be elected next year whose primary duty would be to shift to a parliamentary system.

But the term of the president cannot be shortened unless the Constitution is amended first. And any amendment cannot take effect unless it is first ratified by the people in a plebiscite. Which means we will have two polls in a space of eight months: the plebiscite and the national elections. Each of them will cost the taxpayers several billions, an amount we cannot afford and which is not in the 2004 budget submitted by the executive department. Congress cannot increase the budget submitted by the executive.

Furthermore, for this desperate plan to work, a constituent assembly must be in place next month and the plebiscite held next February, only three months before the May elections. There is very little time to prepare for all these.

A survey has shown that people don't want Charter change, but leave it to the representatives of the people to push what they want instead of what the people want. They don't even know whether the people want a parliamentary system, but that is already the main agenda of a Cha-cha.

The Senate does not want a Consa (for constituent assembly) to amend the Constitution but a Constitutional Convention (Con-Con). As proposed by the Senate, delegates to the Con-Con will be elected at the same time as the other officials in the 2004 polls. The Consa, however, will be composed of, horrors, the present members of Congress.

As Senate President Franklin Drilon said, "It takes two to Cha-cha." But only the House is dancing to the tune. So the congressmen are getting desperate.

The most desperate of all is Speaker Jose de Venecia, the conductor of the orchestra that is the House playing the Cha-cha song. For this is his last hurrah, his last chance to be chief executive. This is also the last hurrah of former President Fidel V. Ramos, who is also for a parliamentary government.

Ramos and De Venecia have four things in common: (1) they are both from Pangasinan; (2) they both want to be chief executive; (3) they both cannot be elected president, Ramos because he is barred by the Constitution from running again, and De Venecia because the people already rejected him when he ran for president and is likely to be rejected again if he runs a second time; and (4) they both want to become chief executive via the back door—by a government shift to a parliamentary system, winning seats in Parliament, and then running for prime minister.

De Venecia is a known wheeler-dealer famous for hammering coalitions from among different political parties and he is confident he can do it again with the politicians who would be elected to Parliament. And that is not hard to do with the present members of Congress, most of whom would likely be elected to Parliament. All he has to do is to be generous to the MPs and they will vote him to be the PM.

Besides that, the PM has to keep the MPs happy, otherwise they could declare a loss of confidence in him and vote to reorganize the government.

Where would the PM get all the money to buy the votes? Where else but from the people. While the MPs get fat, the people would be squeezed dry. You think life is bad now? Wait until we have a parliamentary government.

For in a parliamentary government, there is no system of checks and balances. There would be no Senate to check the MPs, who would be the counterparts of the present congressmen. There would be no executive department to balance the legislature. Parliament would be both the legislature and the executive department. The secretaries or ministers of the executive department would come from among the MPs. And the prime minister, the counterpart of the present President, would also be an MP, elected to his top post by his colleagues. The people would have no part in choosing the person who would rule them.

The government would become an old boys' club even more, controlled by the political party or coalition in power. The party can do almost anything it wants. It would be like a dictatorship with not just one dictator but many. Or like a banana republic with a ruling junta. Imagine having several Marcoses with less brains, running the country. That's what we would be in a parliamentary system.

Theoretically, there would be opposition parties to fiscalize the administration party. But in the Philippines, political parties don't stand for anything. Parties center around personalities, not on ideologies or platforms of government. And opposition politicians tend to fly to the party in power to share in the spoils of victory. So in a Philippine Parliament, opposition politicians and parties would join and coalesce with the winning party. Political butterflies would be as plentiful as locusts. Hence there would be no more opposition parties to check the abuses of the administration party. That is like giving the combination of the safe to a bunch of thieves.

Life may be hard now, but it would be worse in a parliamentary system, especially with the quality, or lack of it, of the present generation of politicians.

It's censorship

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S censorship pure and simple. That is what GMA 7 did in refusing to air "The Probe Team's" story on Pagcor chief Efraim Genuino because it was "incomplete." Cheche Lazaro has every reason to go to town to seek a second opinion. No, she had every right to go to town to slam GMA 7's action.

To begin with, "Probe" is no middling group that is starting out in the business. It is not composed of people who have earned the reputation for getting their facts wrong, or who have stuck their foot in their mouths for being reckless. It is a group that is known for its professionalism, a fact established by the many awards the program has reaped over the years. It is composed of reporters who have earned plaudits for their work by their diligence and enterprise. The least you can do is respect their judgment.

GMA 7 did not. It denies that it was pressured by Malacañang. (*See related letter, "No GMA 7 censorship," P. 16.—Ed.*) Well, it is impossible to prove otherwise. But we may always speculate on what really happened, given GMA's, the President's lack of ability to distinguish between enterprise and subversion. Only last month, she berated GMA 7 reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez in public for destabilizing the republic by interviewing Gregorio Honasan during the Oakwood mutiny. If I remember right, GMA 7 officials who were with Perez at the time did not lift a finger to rescue her from the burst of presidential fury, though they did subsequently defend her story.

We may speculate further on what really happened given GMA's, the President's lack of ability to distinguish between the powers and duties given to Malacañang and those given to media, a confusion that hounded Ferdinand Marcos too, whose monument to ignominy—martial law—which thwarted the freedom of the press, among others, we recalled yesterday. Indeed, given GMA's, the President's lack of ability to distinguish between herself and the republic. Any attack against her or her men takes on the aspect of an attack against the republic.

It may not be long before we ourselves lose the ability to distinguish between GMA the President and GMA the network.

Even if the decision was GMA 7's alone, what of it? It is still censorship. At the very least, the charge of "incompleteness" is a silly one. What constitutes completeness? Covering all angles? Presenting every conceivable detail of a particular story? No story can ever be "complete" in that sense. Nor should it be. The point of a story is to make sense of a welter of facts and events. The point of a story is to separate chaff from grain, to put only as much detail as is necessary to grasp a facet of the truth. That is all you can do. Certainly, that is all a 15-minute episode of a TV program can do.

All you can aspire for in these circumstances is fairness and reasonable accuracy. Not even the INQUIRER series on Pagcor is complete in the sense that it exhausts every possible angle on Pagcor and drowns the reader in details. Yet the INQUIRER did not refuse to publish on the ground it was provisional and done on the run.

Cheche herself has already shown the episode to various groups, and they have found it neither unfair nor inaccurate, neither sloppy nor reckless. The story even went so far as to solicit the views of Teresita Baltazar of the Anti-Graft Commission and a lawyer. All the story did was to put Genuino's lifestyle alongside his stated income and found them not to match. For someone who earns P70,000 including allowances, and has shares in only two corporations, he lives a lavish life, complete with bodyguards, towering walls in two huge residences in Makati, and cars worth millions. One car alone costs P2.65 million. *Timbang ka ngunit sobra.*

If that story is incomplete, it is only in that it did not go on to call Genuino a crook and a deliverer of stolen goods to one Jose Pidal. Otherwise, it is a story that does justice to the reputation of "Probe" for probing things.

You want to see what is incomplete, what is reckless and irresponsible, what goes without any effort to verify, do not look at "Probe," look at Gloria. What did she say in response to the INQUIRER story on Pagcor? "I wish to dispel any impression that this institution is a so-called cash cow that is unaccountable to the people and can be milked by those in power. Pagcor is the source of social amelioration and relief for millions of Filipinos." I don't think even Bobi Tiglao would have hired her as apprentice when he was editing Inquirer Online.

But it's not just that the charge of "incompleteness" is silly, it is that reposing the power to make that judgment in the hands of network officials is dangerous in the extreme. That is like giving newspaper owners the right to rule that certain columns are "incomplete" and may not be published. That happens and we may kiss freedom of the press goodbye. Of course, newspaper owners, as much as network officials, may protect themselves from indefensible stories and opinions. That does not mean stories and opinions that are apt to provoke a libel case—we do not lack for people who routinely charge libel for its PR value, and that is what the lawyers of newspapers and networks are there for, to handle them—it means stories and opinions that have no demonstrable basis.

As it is, this country does not lack for idiots masquerading as reporters and opinion writers who write those things, yet we allow them to exist on the ground that it is better to err on the side of freedom. Which is as it should be, my only caveat being that media confine their diatribes only to those who have the capacity to fight back. You pick on the weak and powerless, you're just a bully. But to prevent a perfectly respectable group from airing a perfectly defensible story on TV!

That is censorship, pure and simple.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

'Paradox of our time'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A FEW weeks ago, business executive Reynaldo "Rene" Concepcion Sr., youngest brother of twins Jose and Raul and Mely Hechanova, succumbed to dengue in a Makati hospital. Four months earlier, Rene, who was only in his late 50s, had a successful heart bypass. Ironically, it was the dreaded mosquito bite that snuffed his life out, stunning the entire Makati business community. Joe Concepcion delivered a beautiful philosophical eulogy for his brother about "the paradox of our time." This column is reprinting the eulogy in the hope that as we savor the verities of life, it would give us a much-needed respite from the political storms that wrack the nation. With this too, go our deepest condolences to Rene's widow, the former Susan Puyat, and to the Concepcion family.

"Rene, in the hour of his agony, asked Susan for the hospital letter pad and struck the keys to spell out: 'Forgive me. I love you.' A message of forgiveness and love.

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. This is how you are to pray.

"I chose the 'Our Father' from the Gospel of Matthew. UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, who died in the Congo while negotiating for a cease fire in the late '60s, wrote his own personal version of the Lord's Prayer in his personal journal, which was discovered in his apartment after his death. It read, 'Hallowed be your name—not mine, and your will be done—not mine…

"When Dr. Garcia told Rene that he was a walking time bomb and scheduled him immediately for a heart bypass, he was in the best of form. If God wanted to take him he was happy to accept. If God wanted him to be with us he was equally happy. He went to Fr. Tony Rosales and confessed his sins—and his sin was that he was always getting mad and that he used harsh words. Fr. Tony said there are many ways to go to heaven and God can understand. I hope that God can understand the Concepcions for their demands of discipline, excellence and empowerment.

"Marie, my daughter, sent a text message to me saying that we should commit to devote one day a week to others, than only to our own, which is a subtle message to me to spend more time with my family, instead of working 16 hours a day for the whole of humanity...

"John, my youngest son, sent me this message after receiving the news that my arteries were in very good condition. He says that the most important thing for us is to spend more of our time in bringing our family together, loving, caring for and sharing with each other. This message is written by George Carlin, which has deep meaning.

"On behalf of my twin brother Ronnic and my sister Mely, permit me to share with you this message from George Carlin, and please join us in further reflection as we bid Rene farewell:

"The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways but narrower viewpoints.

"We spend more but have less; we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time.

"We have more degrees but less sense; more knowledge but less judgment; more experts, yet more problems; more medicines but less wellness.

"We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much and pray too seldom.

"We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life, not life to years.

"We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space, but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice.

"We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

"These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships.

"These are the days of two incomes but more divorce; fancier houses but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies and pills that do everything: from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or just hit 'delete.'

"Remember: spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever.

"Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.

"Remember to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart, and it doesn't cost a cent.

"Remember to say, 'I love you' to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside you.

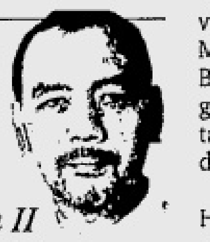
"Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment, for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away..."

From Malaybalay to Manila

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II



WHILE doing ethnographic fieldwork in the Upper Pulangi River Valley, deep in the *lumad* heartland in Bukidnon, the *Pulangihon datu* related their struggle to save what remained of their forests.

Datu Mansabwagan recalled a dialogue held in Malaybalay in the middle 1980s between their leaders and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources over a commercial timber agreement that would have wiped away many of their sources of traditional medicine. The stay in the provincial capital meant they needed to spend for food and shelter, not to mention transportation fare. The dialogue eventually collapsed, leading to a full-blown sit-in protest that effectively stopped logging trucks loaded with freshly sawed logs on Sayre Highway.

As the datu ticks off the names of the protest participants and supporters, he eventually comes to mention Bishop Gaudencio Rosales, then bishop of Malaybalay. It was the bishop who provided food and transportation fare to the *lumads*, and gave them shelter at the Bukidnon Institute of Catechetics in Malaybalay.

The incident should not go unnoticed amid the flurry of speculations as to how Rosales would fare as the new Archbishop of Manila. Opinion spinners not infrequently cite his record as Archbishop of Lipa, often skipping his Malaybalay experience.

Rosales presided over one of most turbulent periods in Bukidnon's recent history. He was at the helm of its diocese at the height of the protests against logging in the province. The young priest Fr. Nery Satur was martyred in Valencia on Oct. 14, 1991 by military suspects said to have been hired by logging interests.

Satur's death drew parallels in the international biodiversity movement with the murder of the Brazilian rubber tapper Chico Mendes who is remembered for his fight for the preservation of the Amazon rainforests. Mendes' martyrdom rallied human rights groups, religious organizations, and rock and movie stars to his cause and brought into focus the pressing need for wildlife and habitat protection.

Archbishop Rosales has been described as "low key," and his appointment to the country's premier Catholic diocese is seen by observers as a move toward "depoliticization" in contrast to Jaime Cardinal Sin's high-profile Edsa involvement. I'm afraid they miss the point. Performance of church leaders cannot be measured simplistically in the political context. The sphere of public human interest can be so varied and spontaneous. The key word often used is "pastoral." To be good pastors, bishops take the lead in the local church's response to specific moments in their people's histories, especially where these involve the common good. Rosales' stint as Bishop of Malaybalay is replete with relevant pastoral responses.

Rosales himself recalled that when the Vatican assigned him to Malaybalay in 1982, he did not even know where it was so that his family had to look it up in the map. Not long after, he narrated, he had immersed himself in the local culture and was delivering sermons in *Binisaya*. "I have forgotten how to deliver my homilies in Tagalog!"

A recent interview in Rome, where Rosales was when the appointment to the Manila see was announced, may indicate some of Rosales' directions, if that is how others may wish to see it.

"I am uneasy," the archbishop said in his first interview. "I feel like St. Joseph after he had the vision of the angel telling him not to worry, when Mary was expecting Jesus, or troubled like the Blessed Mother after the annunciation by the Angel Gabriel who told her not to fear. Every important moment of my life has been like this, my ordination as a priest and then as a bishop.

"I am honored to receive this charge from the Holy Father," he continued. "Of course I have no pastoral plan for the Archdiocese of Manila. I will elaborate it with all the components of the local Church once I have taken possession. But the overall plan is always the same: to render present the Kingdom of God, give space to evangelization, and also to personal reflection and works of charity.

"Cardinal Sin's heritage and charisma will not be lost. I pray that he will never be without the Lord's grace. In my ministry I will work for continuity to carry on his pastoral plan."

Regarding the present situation in the Philippines, he explained: "This is a difficult time, and as bishops, we issued a recent statement calling on political leaders, the army and all citizens to fight corruption and work for the unity and progress of the Philippines. This commitment is basic for the Church: We must instill into society the values of the Gospel."

Given that statement, it becomes rather simplistic to tag the archbishop with labels such as "conservative" or "activist." Man is intrinsically social because he needs society to develop himself. As a social being, man has to be deliberate—in choosing between the good and the bad. As human society is a group of people, it promotes the rights and duties of individuals. Those rights and duties are derived from God.

We can be confident that Archbishop Rosales operates from that pastoral framework. But what makes it doubly exciting is the fact that Archbishop Rosales is the first Filipino bishop of Manila with a Mindanao experience.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

Inseparable in manifest destiny

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

FILIPINO-AMERICANS have been undergoing an identity crisis for a hundred years or more. The hyphen is a heavy cross to bear. Ever since the first intrepid *manongs* from the hard-scrabble Ilocos provinces made it to the fruit orchards and cannery rows of Hawaii and California and Louisiana, Filipinos have been leaving in waves for America.

At first it was just those early Ilocano émigrés, displaced from the land of the Spanish Taliban (friars) of Rizal's far archipelago, who ventured into the new world of John Steinbeck's American West. Coming from their own dust bowl in history, early Filipino farmworkers in America, like Philip Vera Cruz and Carlos Bulosan, drank the "grapes of wrath" to win their place in a strange land of liberty and opportunity.

"America is in the heart!" Carlos Bulosan once said. But they had a big problem—those early Filipino pioneers. They had no women. Shortly after the Philippines became an American colony (its one and only) under the Treaty of Paris, the State of California once made it illegal for white women to marry Filipinos. (No genetic mixing allowed. God knows what primitive sexual practices these bolomen might teach the helpless female population!) But that only encouraged states like Nevada and Oregon—where relations between the intrepid and the lonely were not only legal but inevitable. Just how far California has come may soon be tested in the gay marriage controversy, but I digress.

After World War II, veterans swelled the ranks of new citizens. Their concerns continue to be a major issue. Soon Filipinos of all kinds began to arrive, limited only by a quota, and not even by that, with the discovery of the tourist visa and the vastness of America.

Today, Filipinos in America are said to number four million tax-paying doctors, nurses, dentists, lawyers, teachers, scientists and their families in all 50 States—from sea to shining sea—pillars of their community. They have made "America the Beautiful" not only their anthem, but their home. The Philippines has truly given America its best and brightest. "Brain drain" has beggared the homeland even as it has benefited America.

Now, the Philippines is reaching out to overseas Filipinos in two landmark acts. First, absentee voters may now register and vote, as long as they sign a promise to take up actual residence in the Philippines within a fixed period of time. That requirement has been a great disincentive to many. The frustration was obvious in Sonny Alvarez on television last week as few seemed interested in the program. Sonny is the point man on the overseas vote, which is said to number in the juicy millions, but at last count, less than 100,000 had actually registered and the deadline will soon pass. He should not be surprised. The last thing many Filipino-Americans would do is promise to come back for more than a two-week *balikbayan* visit. And if registrations are slow abroad, they are even slower here.

The second initiative is the dual citizenship law, by which Filipinos who have acquired citizenship in countries like the United States, can reacquire the dubious benefits of Philippine citizenship, such as land ownership and taxation without getting anything in return. There have been few takers so far, but the idea of getting overseas Filipinos to invest in the Philippines has potential, except I think recent emigrants are not the best targets.

There is an important group of Filipino-Americans who are already natural-born dual citizens of both countries. They include all Filipinos born in the United States of Filipino parents, a number that is rapidly growing because of natural Filipino fecundity. Natural-born dual citizens exist because of a funny difference. In the Philippine Constitution, there is a principle called *jus sanguinis* (blood rule) which says that you are Filipino if your parentage is Filipino. In the US Constitution, on the other hand, is the principle of *jus soli* (place rule), which says a human being born on US soil is a natural born American citizen. (I myself am a bona fide natural dual citizen because I was born in the United States of proud Filipino parents.)

Our numbers increase whenever Filipinos in America engage in biblically ordered multiplication. We are good-looking, smart, successful, freedom-loving, energetic and devoted to democracy. We straddle both nations, honoring our parents and Filipino culture, while adding our own contributions to the great human experiment that is America. We are the millions of indissoluble bonds that forever unite our two nations.

And I daresay, every new generation of Filipino-Americans is less beset by the identity crises of its elders. We are citizens of both these nations and of the whole world. Proudly, we bear the hyphen in "Filipino-American." More than that, we declare that we are human beings, we know our constitutional and human rights. We stand by them and will fight to defend them. We believe in forbearance even as we know its limits. Liberty is God's gift to humanity, not Cardinal Sin's or Osama bin Laden's. Both George W. Bush and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo answer to us at election time.

(Read my epic poem, "The Bells of Balangiga," at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/ because the Philippines and America are separated by a tragic past forgotten, yet inseparable in manifest destiny, because of shared values and a common future of challenge and peril.)

Editorial anonymity

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

FOR obvious reasons, the opinion section of a newspaper is exempt from the rule on objectivity. The articles that appear on this page reflect the views of their writers. Hence, the newspaper does not warrant the truth, relevance or genuineness of those comments. It is up to the readers to decide which opinion to accept and which to reject. *Caveat emptor*. Let the readers beware.

The editorial is a daily feature of the INQUIRER's Opinion section. It has a secured place below the box that lists the newspaper's key officials and editors. Depending on the subject matter (and sometimes the mood of its writer), one or two editorials are published seven days a week.

A reader, Dr. Ernesto Namin, wants to more about those editorials. He wrote: "Why are the editorials in most newspapers, all over the world it seems, of anonymous authorship? Are they products of many minds? But even then, they still have names. I do not think we can assume that they always come from the upper echelons of the editorial staff.

"Many are simply lustrous gems and hard hitting; others are so-so and still others I feel sorry to have wasted my time reading. Those that fall in the last category are very rare in the INQUIRER. Will the authors please come out and take a bow, or be pelted with tomatoes and eggs—an occupational hazard—but I hope the tomatoes are fresh and fit for breakfast."

Before I discuss the reader's letter, let me clarify some things first. Not all newspapers have editorials. The editors have their reasons for skipping this traditional journalistic work. The editorial-less newspapers often leave it to their columnists to analyze or comment on the day's events or issues. Some newspapers reprint the editorials of notable foreign publications to give an international flavor to their opinion section.

Rationale

Who can write editorials and how they should be written are matters addressed to the discretion of the editorial staff of the respective newspapers. Except for the standard rules on grammar and style, there are no hard and fast rules on editorial writing. My response to the reader's letter is therefore based on the INQUIRER's policies and does not necessarily apply to other newspapers.

The INQUIRER's editorial represents its analysis or evaluation of the important events or issues in the country or elsewhere in the world. Through this medium, the newspaper seeks to enlighten the readers on the things happening around us so they can be guided in their opinions or actions.

The editorial may call attention to facts or considerations that may have been inadvertently overlooked in the decision-making process. Or it may give a perspective to a controversy different from that widely held by others. Sometimes the editorial expresses appreciation for persons or institutions that deserve them, but have not been given for one reason or another.

Since the editorial is written and published in the name of or on behalf of the INQUIRER, there is no need to disclose the identity of its writer. For all intents and purposes, the writer is the INQUIRER personified.

If the writer's name is indicated or hinted by way of initials, the opinion stated in the editorial can be considered as that of the writer and not of the newspaper.

Anonymity

Following this principle, the INQUIRER clams up whenever third parties ask for the identity of the writer of editorials that, in their opinion, put them in a bad light or unfairly criticized them. Sorry, but the vow of silence can be broken only by a lawful court order. Threatening letters from lawyers of public figures demanding the disclosure of the writer's name wind up in the wastebasket.

Knock on wood, to date, no libel case has yet been filed against the INQUIRER for its editorials.

But this should not be taken to mean that those who feel wronged by an editorial have no recourse for redress other than by suing for libel. They can write to the editor in chief to clarify, deny or controvert any item in the editorial that they may take issue with. Subject to compliance with the criteria on length and choice of words, the letter will be published at the Letters section at the earliest time possible.

If the aggrieved person wants to give vent to his anger verbally and in person, he can meet with the publisher who will be glad to hear his side. But the anonymity of the editorial writer will still be upheld. I have experienced pinch-hitting once for the publisher in a meeting with an irate congressman and I regretted the experience. Never have I seen a more foul-mouthed and arrogant person in my life. I am glad he was not reelected.

The confidentiality of the identity of the writer remains even if the purpose of the inquiry is to show appreciation for the kind words expressed in an editorial. Whenever I receive queries of this nature, I tell the interested party to simply address his letter of thanks to the editor in chief and the letter will find its way to the writer concerned.

Writers' pool

So who takes care of churning out the newspaper's daily dose of editorials?

A pool of senior members of the editorial staff, with the Opinion editor acting as coordinator, writes the newspaper's official views or comments on the issues of the day. They are assigned to write on different days of the week.

The rotation is necessary to avoid job burnout. Analyzing current events and transforming the analysis or interpretation into words that can be understood by the readers can be mentally exhausting. Meaningful ideas do not come from thin air. They are products of serious study and careful evaluation. And they take time to prepare and write.

Besides, the variety of writers gives the readers an opportunity to read different points of views and writing styles. I am sure the readers will get bored if the editorials carry one line of thinking or writing all week long, not unlike eating the same food every day.

The choice of the subject of an editorial is up to the writer assigned to a particular day of the week. Before his fingers hit the computer keyboard, he consults with the Opinion editor or other members of the pool on the contents of the editorial. As soon as they reach a consensus, the writer is on his own.

He is not obliged to clear his work with the editorial staff or anybody else, including the newspaper's business executives. Once published, the editorial becomes the official stand and responsibility of the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Police brutality vs press freedom

WE, the editorial board and staff of the Philippine Collegian, the official student publication of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, condemn the violent dispersal of UP protesters and the media harassment suffered by one of our colleagues at the hands of Senate security guards and the police during the Sept. 9 rally against Senate Bill 2587, or the UP Charter Bill.

That day, around 300 students and professors, united under the UP Not For Sale Coalition, protested against SB 2587, which contains provisions contradictory to the nature of UP as a State University funded by and serving the people.

This militant yet peaceful protest went awry when Senate security and Pasay City police forces dispersed the rallyists and left at least 16 UP students and teachers injured, and arrested 13 others, then detaining them for seven hours. Among those injured and detained was Philippine Collegian graphics editor and photographer Rafael Lerma who was covering the rally. When the police saw Lerma taking photographs of the dispersal, they ganged up on him and mauled him. Lerma was wearing his Collegian press ID the whole time, but this did not prevent the police from hurting and apprehending him. According to Lerma, the police ignored his ID and told him that his Collegian ID was only a "cover." Lerma suffered contusions and bruises on the neck, chest and the head.

When the Collegian reporters went to cover the proceedings, the police barred them from entering the premises of the Pasay City Police District Headquarters, the Pasay General Hospital and the Fiscal's Office. The police also refused to show the medico-legal report on Lerma and other detainees to the Collegian reporters.

We cannot tolerate such attack on civil liberties and campus press freedom. Lerma was a legitimate member of the press who was simply doing his job. The attack on him was tantamount to disrespect to a legitimate student institution and a historical icon that is the Philippine Collegian. We urge the Senate and the UP administration to investigate the matter lest this incident be repeated and become a precedent for more campus press freedom violations. We also appeal to our friends in the media and the UP community to support us in our efforts to uphold campus press freedom and civil liberties.

—SHERWIN MAPANOO
for the editorial board
and staff of the Philippine
Collegian 2003-2004,
philippine_collegian@yahoo.com

'When thou prayest'

I HAVE read the statement of Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla in your editorial (PDI, 9/7/03) and it struck me as an honest appraisal of current events in this country. He even drew the "unhappy conclusion" that we "may be approaching a revolutionary situation." In the same INQUIRER issue, Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas of Manila bemoaned the "bickering and endless accusations" among officials in high places and said ours is a "troubled, confused, divided country."

The two churchmen above seem to be saying that peace and unity are as elusive as ever. And to think that not too long ago, religious leaders from different faiths led a huge prayer-rally at the Luneta and "stormed" the heavens precisely to appeal to God to give us peace and unity.

I would humbly suggest to our church leaders who may care to listen, to just follow what Christ our Lord taught us: "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men... But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hath shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret... But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathens do..." (Matthew 6: 5-7)

—JESUS NATANAUAN,
141 Mabini St., Barangay 1,
Talisay, Batangas 4220

Better things to build than MMDA urinals

LIKE a lot of people who believe in Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando's "politics of performance," I, too, pray and wish most of our politicians would follow suit. His passion for service and his political will is something our country needs.

Although most of his projects are noteworthy, I feel that the "pink male urinals" around the metropolis may be a waste of government time and money. The cost of building and maintaining these urinals far outweighs the reason for having them. Discipline is the agenda, and discipline is also the key factor here. Most, if not all of these "male urinals," are only a few meters or a short walk to establishments or gas stations with comfortable rest rooms. I don't think it would make any difference at all to hold back a minute or two to get there. Women don't have problems with this, or maybe women are more disciplined than men? In jest, some women even call it a "chauvinistic" gesture.

Bottom line is, the funds for these may be used for other more urgent and more helpful things. I hope he considers stopping this project while it's still early. He has the intellect and the grit this country needs. We want him to succeed.

—JOJO P. ALEJAR,
South Wing 508,
House of Representatives, QC

MM
MM
MM
MM
METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Is it sensible to believe a liar's word?

I REFER to the Senate investigation of Eugenio Mahusay. Much to my regret, I have to say that almost all the inquiries asked by the senators were—in my personal observation—vain. Why did they (senators) so seriously attempt to unearth something from a self-confessed liar? What could they have gotten out of a liar? Everything that he would have disclosed would just have been trash. The best treatment that Mahusay deserved in that instance was to be thrown out of the Senate.

I was glad Sen. Robert Jaworski expressed disappointment with the proceedings. So far he was the only one who made sense in that inquiry.

—SERGIO M. DIZON,
San Francisco, Mabalacat,
Pampanga

No GMA 7 censorship

GMA Network Inc. would like to react to the INQUIRER's front-page article, "GMA 7 stops probe team report, seeks proof." (PDI, 9/17/03)

In that article, "The Probe Team's" executive producer, Cheche Lazaro, said "there were many pressures that came to play" in the decision.

The statement implies that GMA Network Inc. did not allow the airing of "The Probe Team's" Sept. 16 episode because it succumbed to pressure.

This innuendo is baseless. GMA management would like to stress that it did not air "The Probe Team's" episode because the story on the lifestyle check of Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino had incomplete supporting documents. That was the only reason and nothing more.

Our corporate lawyers adjudged the SEC documents furnished to us by "The Probe Team" as inadequate. They point out that old documents, such as articles of incorporation and general information sheets filed with the SEC, cannot be used as basis for concluding that the person concerned continues to retain ownership of the shares listed in his names.

The documents pertaining to Genuino's undeclared ownership of several companies were dated/filed long before 2001, except one which was dated Jan. 9, 2001. It bears mentioning that the first relevant SAL of Genuino researched by "The Probe Team" was dated Feb. 5, 2001.

We are underlining these facts and reasons not to defend any public official coming under close scrutiny, but to defend our own credibility which was put in question by Lazaro's statement in the paper.

We also want to end all speculations that our decision not to air is somehow connected to Pagcor threatening to pull out its commercials currently airing on GMA Network.

For the record, our sales department reports that Pagcor's advertising accounts for only one-tenth of one percent of our total sales.

It is unthinkable for a company like GMA Network to allow this inconsequential percentage of income to risk a falling-out with a long-time partner like Probe Productions, and more importantly, to put our credibility and integrity on the line.

—MARISSA FLORES,
vice president, News and Public
Affairs, GMA Network Inc.,
GMA Network Center,
Edsa cor. Timog Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

Not yet hopeless

THE POLITICAL bickering and grandstanding in our country have further tarnished the already fading pride of the Filipinos as a race.

Gone are the days when we were so proud to be identified as Filipinos. I still remember the glorious days of the first Edsa revolt. Everybody thought that it would be the springboard to economic and political stability, but all hopes seem to fade now. Edsa I is now just a story to be told in the generations to come, or a topic for social science class.

What ever happened to our gallant street parliamentarians and courageous opposition of that time—who were willing to lay down their lives for the country—now that they are in power? They have changed their cloaks, harvesting what they must be thinking as payments for their sacrifices during the martial law days. They are doing nothing good for the people. They just do not care about the people. They say they care, but their hearts and minds are dominated by deceits.

For the information of those who are concerned, we, the overseas contract workers, are not happy to be away from our families. We are always praying to God to bless our country with a stable and sound economy so that there will be no need for us to leave. But in the face of political grandstanding and corruption in our country, our dreams of settling home is becoming dimmer.

In Southeast Asia, the Philippines has the most number of overseas contract workers deployed all around the world. Despite some $8 billion in annual remittances from us, our country's economy is being left behind, without any sign of recovery. What is the problem?

I hope that none of the senators and congressmen will get reelected in the coming election. I hope and pray that a new breed of senators and congressmen who are God-fearing and with clear consciences will take their place, people with dignity, honor and conviction to serve the country and not the party.

We should rely, believe, pray with a repentant heart and put all our hopes in God alone, and He will heal our land. Then He will show us that it is not yet hopeless.

—APOLLO C. BALMES
Jubail, Saudi Arabia

Time for justice long delayed

THE SO-CALLED "Generation X" of this country, or those born during the early '70s, gained sudden prominence when a group of young Armed Forces of the Philippines officers and men decided to air their grievances against corrupt government and AFP officials.

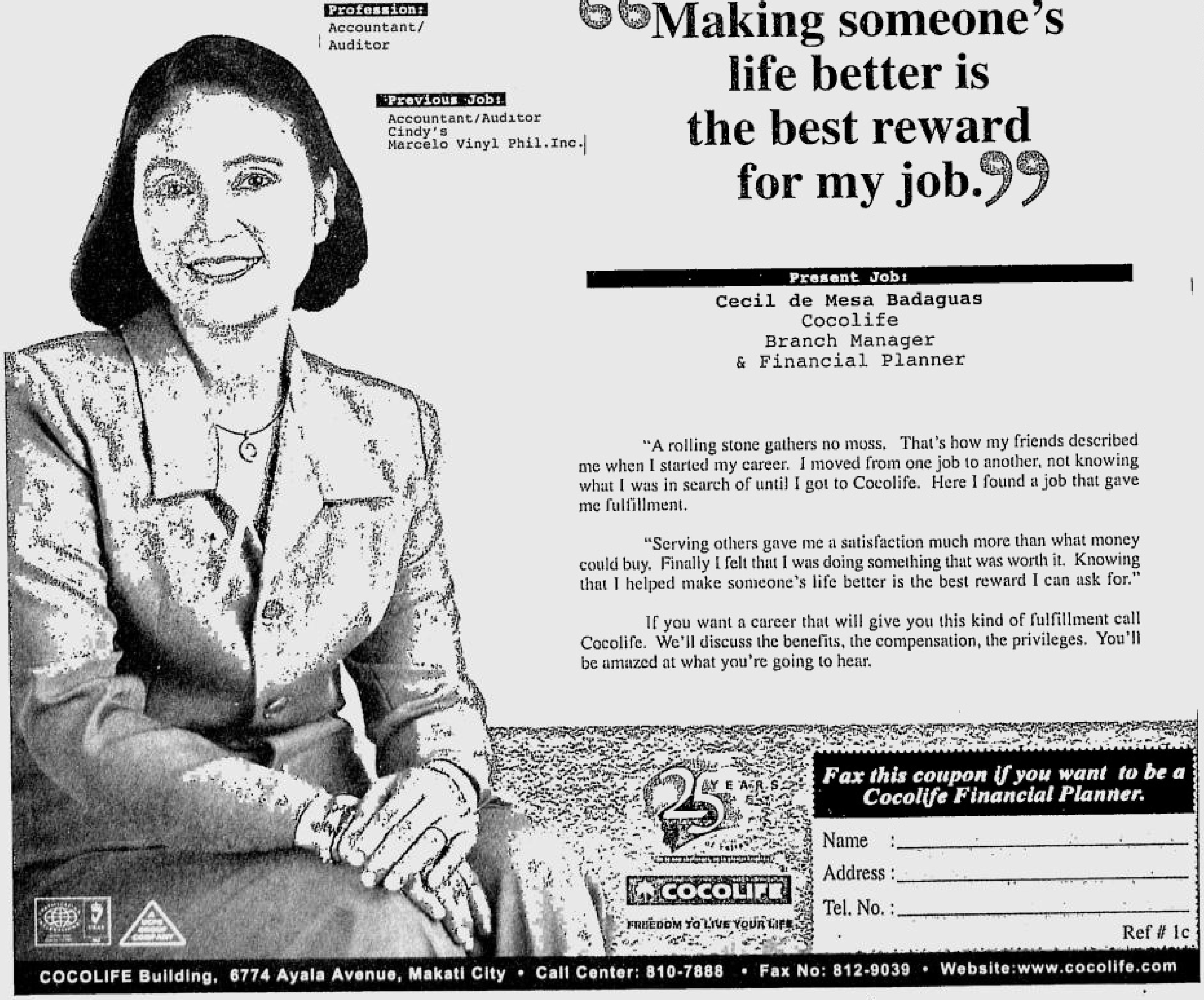
A major concern raised by the Magdalo Group is the alleged misuse of the AFP's Retirement Separation and Benefits Services (RSBS) funds. This involves a 600-hectare area (the San Lorenzo South housing project) fronting the national highway in Barangay Makiling, Calamba, Laguna, beside the Yakult property, which cost the RSBS approximately P341 million. The RSBS, as authorized by the Board of Trustees, acquired the said property at the approved acquisition cost.

A few years later, there were talks of "misappropriation" on the part of the RSBS management because the cost registered by the seller at the Office of the Register of Deeds was only P91 million, or a whopping difference of P250 million. Naturally, as RSBS president, Brig. Gen. Jose Ramiscal Jr. was accused of having profited from the difference, until it was proven by the investigators that the seller acted unilaterally to avoid paying a substantial capital gains tax.

Nowadays, as a result of the democratic surge which began in the late '60s, it is so easy for the young to challenge existing systems of authority. Because of a prevailing "spirit of rebellion," people no longer feel the same compulsion to obey those whom they had previously considered superior to themselves in age, rank, status, expertise, character, or talents. While it is true that the authority of governmental leaders and institutions depends largely on the extent in which the public has confidence and trust in those institutions and leaders, it is also true that rash judgments only complicate matters.

As American statesman Benjamin Franklin wrote: "It is better that a hundred guilty persons should escape than one innocent person should suffer." The family of General Ramiscal has suffered long enough. It's time for justice to be rendered.

—ERICK SAN JUAN,
Suite 1402, 1st e-Bank Tower,
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City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Poll to resolve N. Vizcaya mining row

KASIBU, Nueva Vizcaya—An intense battle for villagers' votes has started to heat up between pro-environment groups and a foreign firm in a controversy involving a proposed mining project in this upland town.

This developed after the Commission on Elections approved an *en banc* resolution for the holding of a plebiscite to resolve the mining controversy in the ore-rich village of Didipio.

Members of anti-mining groups led by the Didipio Earth-Savers Multi-Purpose Association Inc. (Desama) and the Diocesan Social Action Center (DSAC) said they have started to draft a plan to reject the mining proposal of Climax-Arimco Mining Co. (CAMC), an Australian firm.

The Comelec resolution issued Sept. 11 allows the residents' petition to conduct a plebiscite to determine whether Didipio villagers would allow large-scale mining activities in the area. The plebiscite will be held 30 days after the approval of the resolution.

Since 1999, the controversy has divided the estimated 1,300 villagers of Didipio, belonging to the Ifugao, Ibaloi, Kalanguya and Bugkalot tribes, into pro- and anti-mining factions.

"The decision of the people of Didipio will close the proverbial door on this mining issue. We know we don't have the resources, we know we are faced up against a giant but we are ready," said Catholic nun Sr. Maria Eden Orlino, DSAC director.

Phil Nepomuceno, CAMC regional liaison manager, said he has yet to read a copy of the Comelec resolution, but assured that the company's officials and managers will meet soon to discuss the decision.

Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani, who has taken a neutral stand on the controversy, said he welcomed the Comelec resolution.

"We are optimistic that this (plebiscite) will reflect once and for all what the people in Didipio want. Whatever would be the outcome, we will support it," he said.

Desama members claimed that the approval given to CAMC by Didipio officials, enacted through a council resolution, did not reflect the true sentiment of the community on the issue of mining.

The plebiscite was proposed through a barangay initiative by petitioners Peter Duyapat, Juan Pumihic, Marina Ansibey, Julian Inlab and Lorenzo Pulido, all Desama members.

The plebiscite seeks to gather support from the affected residents whether to adopt or reject a resolution denying concurrence to the memorandum of agreement between officials of Barangay Didipio and CAMC.

It also seeks to adopt or reject the petition preventing the Sangguniang Barangay from entering into any contract with CAMC, and denying the concurrence to the construction of a tailings dam, diversion and drainage tunnels and open canal in the area.

The CAMC, which acquired a Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) from the government in 1994, intends to extract gold and copper deposits in the mineral-rich Mt. Dinkidi in Barangay Didipio.

The deposits are estimated at four million ounces of gold and 1.5 billion pounds of copper resources, said to be worth P121 billion. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Asia's biggest copper mine firm to reopen

CEBU CITY—Plans are laid for the re-opening of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. (ACMDC), once Asia's biggest copper mining firm, that shut down in 1999 amid financial and labor problems and for causing an ecological disaster in the southern part of Cebu.

Rodrigo Cal, ACMDC's officer in charge for Cebu operations, presented a re-opening plan yesterday at the Visayas Regional Mining Workshop held at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel spearheaded by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in cooperation with the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

ACMDC opened its doors to both local and foreign investors to revive mining operations, Cal said. The company then entered into a debt-for-equity agreement with a Filipino company, Alakor Corp. in October 2000. *Bernadette Parco, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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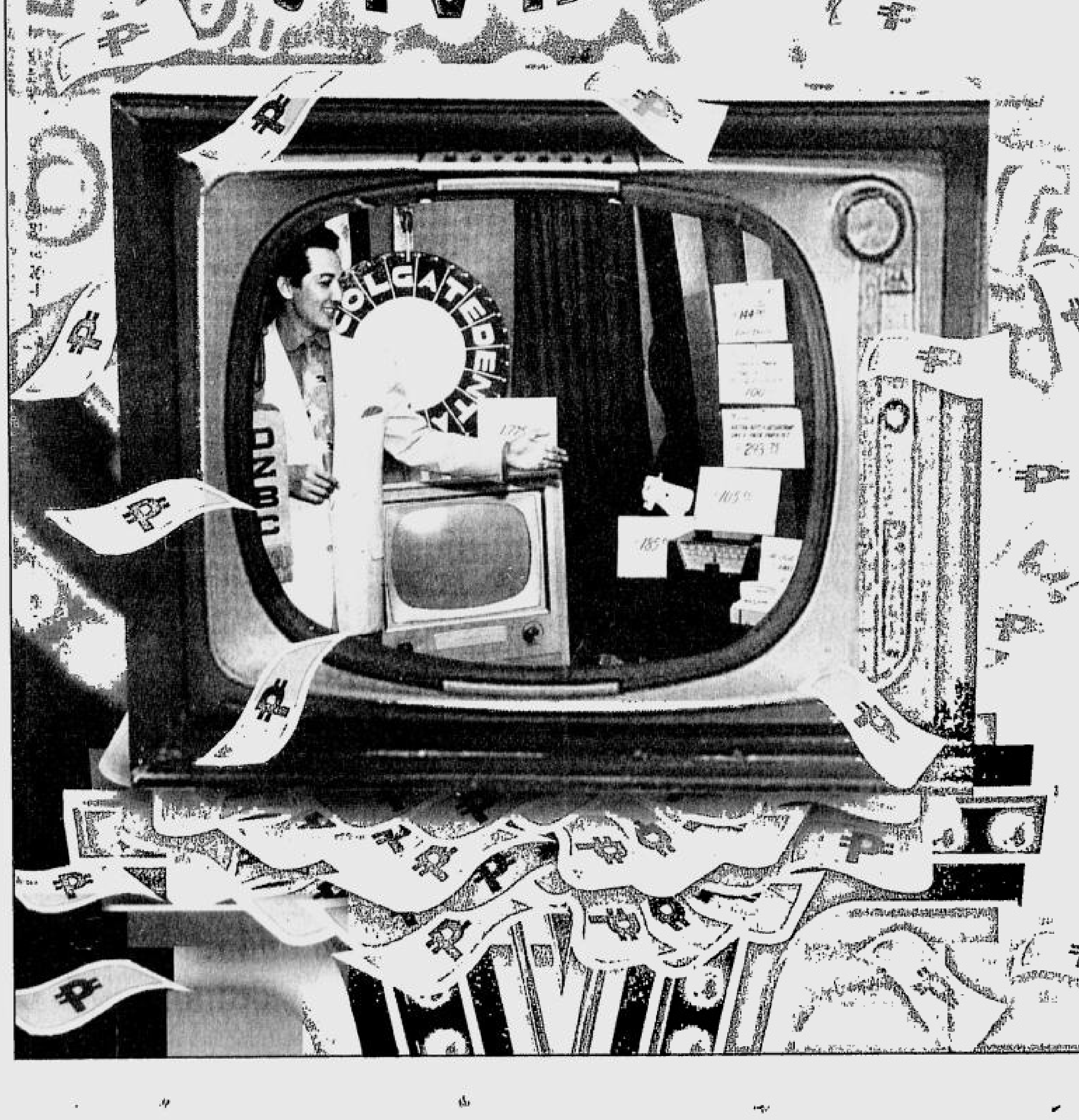
Pinoy TV hits the Jackpot.



1958
FIRST TV GAME OF CHANCE

ABS-CBN placed its winning bet on the first game show on TV, *"What's my Living?"* in 1958. This show from ABS 3 gave seasoned director Mitos Villareal her directorial debut. Six years later, ABS-CBN scored another win when its widely popular radio game show *"Mahiwagang Kahon,"* hosted by Jaime dela Rosa, became a hit. It later migrated to TV as *"Kwarta o Kahon,"* this time with Pepe Pimentel as host.

The game show format found renewed strength and interest among the new generation of Filipino viewers when *"Game Ka Na Ba?"* was introduced in 2001. A unique package that combines amusement, learning and public service in one program, *GKNB* is truly a game show with a heart. Celebrity players have donated millions to charitable institutions through the program. The showcase portion, a *GKNB?* innovation, has become a distinct way of touching and changing the lives of its beneficiaries. To date, the program remains as the undisputed number one game show on primetime.

From a venue where ordinary people become overnight sensations, the game show format has truly trancended. ABS-CBN's game shows have indeed upheld the network's time-tested tradition of providing programs that are not only interesting and delightful to watch, but are also evocative and relevant to the needs of society.

50 YEARS ABS-CBN TELEVISION SINCE 1953
In The Service Of The Filipino

Quezon volunteers amazed to see a clean Tayabas Bay

LUCENA CITY—The hordes of annual volunteer beach-cleaners that again trooped to the coast of Tayabas Bay here on Saturday to join participants in the worldwide celebration of the 18th International Coastal Cleanup Day expected to find the usual unpleasant sight of garbage of all kinds dotting the long shoreline.

But what greeted the students, soldiers, police and trainees, government and private employees, media and non-government organizations instead were "signs of improvement." They found less garbage littered along the shore.

"This is great. The signs of improvement are everywhere. It seems that the value of past coastal cleanup have been starting to be instilled in the minds of the villagers," Juliet Borlon, last year's ICC celebration coordinator in Quezon, said.

Lucena City Vice Mayor Dondon Alcala, a regular participant in the coastal cleanup, was also amazed with the near-pristine condition of the beach. "There are still some isolated spots full of garbage. But the general direction looks promising. They now begin to learn and appreciate our efforts in the past," he said.

Marcelo Magadia, Barangay Dalahican chief, admitted that there is still a lot to be done to sustain the newfound attitude of the villagers with regard to the maintenance of clean surroundings.

"What we really lack here are sites for the construction of public toilets. We still have to wait for the [completion] of the construction of road access to the new port. We plan to build public toilets [on] the roadside," Magadia said.

In a secluded corner of the beach behind the rows of moored fishing boats, a group of police trainees were seen trying hard to extricate bundles of old and rotten fishnets and ropes left lying in the beach for years.

Supt. George Neri III, commandant of the Southern Tagalog police training school, led more than 300 trainees in the cleanup.

"As future cops, they should also value the importance of a clean environment," he said.

With no garbage in the beach, students with brooms, shovels and rakes, checked on all the nooks and alleys of the village and picked up all kinds of garbage they could find.

Commandant Christopher Caunan, Coast Guard detachment chief, reported that based on the initial reports he received from different Coast Guard stations in Marinduque and Southern Quezon, there was also massive turnout of coastal cleaners from these areas.

He attributed the decline of beach garbage not only to the changed attitude of the villagers and the picnickers but also to the full cooperation of ships officials passing through their areas of jurisdiction.

Federico Ocampo, Cenro-Real chief, said different groups also participated in the cleanup along the shores of Polillio-Real-Infanta-Gen. Nakar areas. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

STUDENTS and drama enthusiasts from Mountain Province and Kalinga remove the garbage from the Chico River.

COURTESY OF EBGAN INC.

Cordillera students start Chico River clean-up

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Kevin Soliba, a 17-year-old Bontoc student, and some 80 other teenagers from Mt. Province and Kalinga, barely consumed their dinner on Sept. 16.

It took them a big amount of willpower to forget the stench that confronted them that Tuesday morning at the banks of Chico River, where several towns of Mt. Province had been dumping garbage for the last 20 years.

"The teenagers never realized how bad the river had become, although everyone in town knew that was where their garbage disappeared to everyday. So when we all went there to see (this condition) for ourselves, all the teenagers felt vomiting," explained Lynn Madalang, executive director of Ebgan Inc., a gender rights advocacy group, which had been lobbying for a new Mt. Province sanitation policy.

The stretch of the 80-km long Chico River banks, which is visible from Bontoc, was covered with every imaginable piece of garbage. No river rocks or stones along the Chico River missed being snagged by red plastic bags or smeared by rotting animal flesh, vegetables and aluminum foil.

So when the teenagers were later asked to pledge their energy for a campaign to change the town's sanitation practices, Soliba's vow was sarcastic.

"I promise to dispose of my sanitary napkin in ways that would not pollute the river," the young man said in Bontoc, to the amusement of his colleagues.

Soliba and students from Kalinga and Mt. Province did more than just make promises.

They trooped to the Chico River banks on that same day to actually haul out styropor containers, muddied plastic bags and assorted tin cans in what they hoped would be a sustained cleanup drive along the river.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in the Cordillera confirmed in July 4 that Bontoc's Barangay Callulit dump had eroded into the river. Another open river dump at Sitio Gusod, Barangay Ampawilan in nearby Sadanga town is virtually designed to wash garbage down toward the Chico banks because of a newly constructed drainage culvert, according to Frederic Villanueva, EMB Cordillera director.

The pollution along the Chico's banks affect most of the towns of Mt. Province and Kalinga, which rely on the river for irrigation, and the fish called *gadew* (pronounced gatch-oo).

"Someone from Barangay Tocucan told me they stopped buying *gadew* from the market because they felt that the fish is now too toxic," Madalang said.

She said the Mt. Province government had turned a deaf ear to this environmental hazard for years.

Local governments in the province finally offered to listen when students of the Samoki Youth Council, Reserve Officers Training Corps leaders and cadets of several high schools there, a drama troupe organized for teenagers and the Kalinga Students Association from across the border, petitioned Bontoc Mayor Louis Claver in July.

The youths' proposal was simple: Dredge the Chico River banks and force the Mt. Province barangays to set up their own landfills, where the trash retrieved from the riverbanks can be deposited.

But on Tuesday, no officials showed up to support the river cleanup drive. Madalang said the only government presence there was a Bontoc town garbage truck, which was sent to haul the garbage that would be recovered from the banks. A local firm supplied the youth with more than a hundred rice sacks where they put the trash.

Accompanied by Baguio-based sculptor Kigao Rosimo and Raffy Kapuno, executive director of the Cordillera Green Movement, the teenagers spent hours scrambling around huge river rocks, prying out damp or wet garbage.

"Eventually, they had to give up. We were supposed to clean up the whole day, but we exhausted all our rice sacks by noon, and we had no more energy to do anything. We were even more disappointed when we saw a government truck drive down to the river to throw more garbage. The teenagers drove the truck away," Madalang said.

"The Chico's condition (and the deaths of two youths fished out of the river recently) illustrated how little the towns respect the river," Madalang said. "But the teenagers saw the need to act, when their own parents could not. They made this choice, not to spite their parents, but to protect their own future children."

A drama group composed of teenagers trained by Ebgan performed for the town a contemporary tale about the origins of the Chico River.

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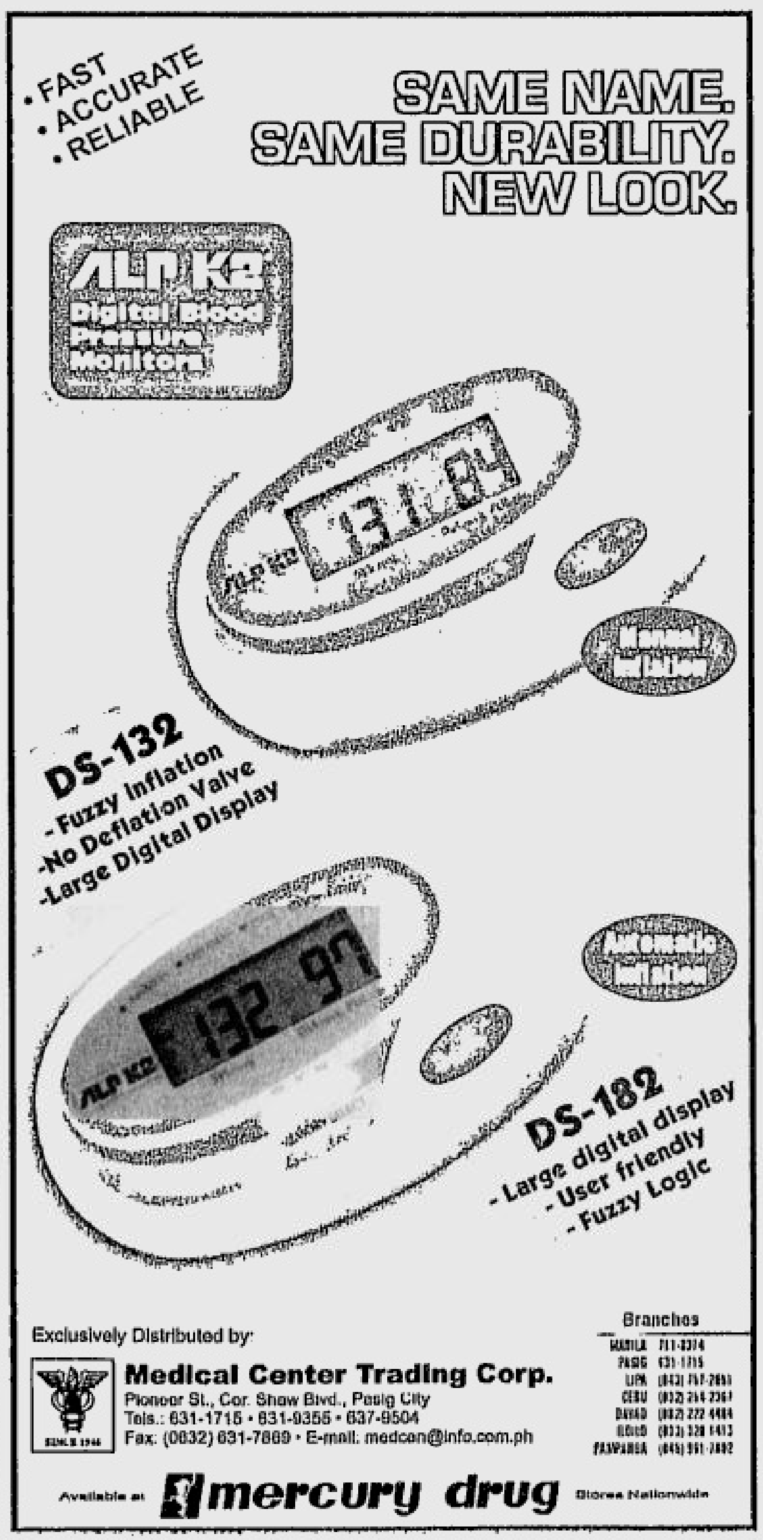
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8,000 youths, fisherfolk clean up Davao's coasts

DAVAO CITY—At least 8,000 individuals from the youth sector, government agencies and fisherfolk pooled their resources to clean up the coasts here of debris that continue to be a threat to marine resources.

Antonio Uy of the 801st Division of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, said more community members in the city's 24 coastal barangays participated in the clean-up.

Awareness of the protection of marine waters is gaining success each year as shown in more persons participating in the international coastal cleanup.

Yvonne Pangilinan, executive director of the Save the Davao Gulf Foundation, said the yearly coastal cleanup has helped raise awareness among the people especially those living in the coastal areas and near the river.

"We are trying our best to educate the people not to throw garbage anywhere. We can see the improvement. There is really a change in the attitude of people in the protection of the environment," Pangilinan said.

Uy said Davao is the only city in the world that celebrates the International Coastal Cleanup for a week. International Coastal Cleanup is celebrated only one day in other countries, he added.

Mangrove trees were planted and *bangus* fry were released.

The International Cleanup was first initiated in 1985 when the Office of Toxic Substances contracted with the Center for Environmental Education to conduct a study of plastic marine garbage.

The study showed that plastics have been the top marine debris hazard. The center was reportedly appalled at the amount of trash found littering the shores of South Padre Island in Texas, so it organized the first beach cleanup that was able to gather 124 tons of trash from the 122 miles of coastline.

Plastics and other debris cause habitat destruction, smothering coral reefs and sea grasses, the ICC said. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Firm opposes port livelihood center in Batangas

BATANGAS CITY—Only two days after the groundbreaking of the P300-million Batangas Port Livelihood Center (BPLC) in Barangay Sta. Clara, a company reportedly headed by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste and husband Antonio expressed opposition to the project.

The BPLC is the first of its kind, seen to emerge as a shopping and commercial complex to be built on a 1.8-hectare area on the port's passenger terminal.

It is envisioned to create about 500 jobs for the residents of Sta. Clara who have been evicted by the port project.

The port project, which has four phases, is now only on its second stage.

But on July 28, a letter from the Batangas Port Planners Development Inc. (BPPDI) was sent to Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) General Manager Alfonso Cusi, opposing the project and claiming that BPPDI has the exclusive right to the port's reclamation project.

In the letter, BPPDI general manager Rio Espiritu said the livelihood center was approved despite the existence of a contract between his company and the Public Estates Authority (PEA).

The letter, which put to a stop the construction of the livelihood center, also claimed that BPPDI's contract was even covered by Memorandum Order No. 302 dated Aug. 14, 1995 and signed by then President Fidel Ramos.

Espiritu said the livelihood center project might overlap with BPPDI's planned projects in the same area.

BPPDI, according to its registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission dated April 6, 1993, is headed by Antonio Leviste, his senator-wife Loren Legarda-Leviste, and Felipe Cruz as main incorporators.

Leviste sits at the PPA board, making his position as incorporator of the BPPDI and the company's opposition to the project an issue of conflicting interest.

The PPA has earlier approved the construction of the livelihood center, which will be built with a P300 million loan from the Landbank of the Philippines.

Cruz, who also sits as a BPPDI incorporator, is the owner of F. F. Cruz, the main contractor for the port development project. Also listed as BPPDI incorporators are Cruz's family members Angelita and Eric.

In a phone interview, Leviste was fuming mad at Gov. Hermilando Mandanas, and accused him of telling the media about the BPPDI story.

He said he was the one who helped Mandanas get the MOA approved by the PPA since the governor was having a hard time getting the approval.

Leviste further got mad about the issue of conflict of interest against him.

He said he was an incorporator of BPPDI in 1994.

"That was before there was any Batangas port, before Loren was senator, and even before Mandanas became governor. But since nothing happened at the BPPDI because the port construction took so long, I have already sold all my shares to F. F. Cruz," Leviste said.

But Leviste also admitted that although he has sold his share to F.F. Cruz, Loren remained an incorporator of BPPDI.

On the second interview called by Leviste at the Citibank Tower in Makati City, he said Loren had also sold her BPPDI shares to F. F. Cruz between 1998 and 2000.

In an interview, Mandanas said he was puzzled with BPPDI's opposition to the livelihood center project.

"During the meetings held prior to the approval of the project, Mr. Felipe Cruz has always been there to support us. I even asked him about his position in the project and he never objected to it. Why then, when the budget was already approved, and we have already held our groundbreaking, did BPPDI become interested to oppose it when Mr. Cruz was always with us, we don't know," Mandanas said. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Police chief sacked for slow Pala probe

DAVAO CITY—The regional chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) was relieved from his post amid perceptions of a snail-paced investigation on the murder of broadcaster and former councilor Juan Pala Jr.

Supt. Jose Pante, who was previously assigned with CIDG-Central Mindanao, replaced Supt. Danilo Galapon.

The CIDG has been tasked to lead the investigation on Pala's death.

During turnover rites on Thursday afternoon, CIDG director Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano said the revamp was prompted by "performance evaluation of all CIDG regional directors."

But he later said the decision to head the CIDG regional office here was appropriate.

"It is just placing the right person in the right position," Matillano told reporters.

Failure

He said Galapon would be temporarily assigned at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Galapon's relief came after former mayor Benjamin de Guzman asked regional police director Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña and city police director Senior Supt. Conrado Laza to resign from their posts for their alleged failure to solve the summary executions of suspected criminals, including those of Pala's murder.

Matillano said the CIDG has identified some suspects in Pala's murder but that they were still gathering more evidence to substantiate the filing of charges.

Pala, who became famous for his anti-communist tirades in his radio program, was gunned down by two armed men on Sept. 6 near his house in Davao Empress Subd., in Buhangin District.

It was the third attempt on the broadcaster's life. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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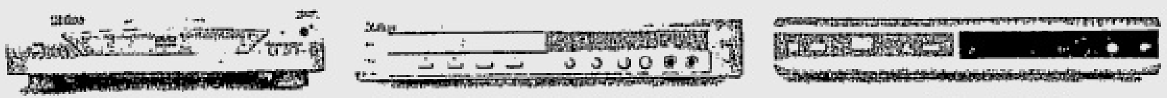
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No martial rule

From page A1

But the President said rumors of "groups inciting soldiers and the basic sector to grab power from the legitimate government" still persisted.

"Oakwood is over. Let us forget it," said the President, who noted that soldiers have already pledged their support to the chain of command and the Constitution. Oakwood referred to the July 27 failed mutiny.

Ms Macapagal has ordered leaders of the Armed Forces to send the reform message to the lowest ranks so that every soldier would remain faithful.

The President said it was necessary to keep the spirit of the two Edsa movements alive to bury the memory of Sept. 21.

Parents of victims

At the Bantayog ng mga Bayani, less than 2 km where the President delivered her speech, hundreds of parents and children offered prayers for their loved ones who fought and died fighting martial law.

Susana Bautista and other parents are still looking for their children. The last time she saw her son was in 1976.

Bautista, 84, traveled from Tanay, Rizal to Quezon City, carrying a framed picture of her eldest son Manuel, whom she last saw inside Camp Vicente Lim nearly three decades ago.

She could not even recall the exact day when she last saw her son, but the bruises in his body, the cuts in his face, and the suffering she had seen in his eyes remained vivid in her memory as a mother.

She found solace in other people who trooped to the memorial, most of whom had become victims of martial rule.

Bautista talked to Louie Crismo, whose brother Romeo disappeared on Aug. 20, 1980. Witnesses had told Crismo four military-looking men abducted his brother who was then on his way to a campus in Cagayan, where he was a teacher.

That was the last thing Crismo heard about his brother, who had just got married.

In 1985, Crismo joined the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, a group of more than 600 families who until now continue looking for their loved ones. The FIND is just one of the 30 organizations comprising the newly formed Alyansa 9/21, a group of martial law victims.

Members of the group have given a new face to their cause—they are now focusing on livelihood projects to help their members.

The group set up stalls at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani from Sept. 19 to 21, where members sold their products. It also conducted job fairs and medical and dental missions for their members the other day, Alyansa 9/21 committee head Johnny Go said.

One member-group sold paintings, while another sold hand-painted T-shirts. A group of rebel returnees sold hand-made cards, and another sold embroidered hats and wallets.

Low consciousness

Most of the products were done by former political detainees. But just like the consciousness of Filipinos about martial law, the stall owners said their sales were low.

They paid P150 for each stall, but their sales could hardly meet the daily rent.

Hilda Narciso, 58, a member of Claimant 1081, also set up a stall where she sold boxes of chocolates she made herself. She also sold homemade candles and pots of mini-gardens.

Narciso, who was detained during martial law, was abducted on March 24, 1983 while she was on mission work as a church worker in Davao. She was raped by several soldiers while she was held inside a military safehouse.

With anger in her eyes, Narciso narrated to the INQUIRER how the soldiers molested her while she was hogtied and blindfolded. She cursed several times while recalling her ordeal.

But now she said she had turned her nightmare into a ray of light for victims of rape. She helped establish the Woman Crisis Center for rape victims.

Early afternoon yesterday, the stall owners started packing their products, a little disappointed with the low sales. But what is more disheartening for the victims was the idea that many Filipinos seem to forget the bitter lessons of the past.

They also remember, even in Marcos country

From page A1

the minds of relatives of the disappeared and killed, and victims of torture and illegal detention in Southern Tagalog during the martial law years.

The relatives prayed for justice and indemnification at the United Church of Christ in the Philippines in Calamba, Laguna.

During the liturgy, the victims of torture and detention gave testimonies.

Candles for victims

After the Mass, various sectors, led by Biktima at Kamag-anakan Laban sa Inhustisya at Militarisasyon-Southern Tagalog (Biktima-ST) and rights group Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, gave tribute to the victims in a program at Crossing, Calamba. They lighted candles beside pictures of the victims.

Armand Albarillo, spokesperson of Biktima-ST, called for the immediate passage of Senate Bill No. 1877 and House Bill No. 4535 which would provide compensation to martial Law victims from the Marcos ill-gotten wealth forfeited by the government.

"Thirty one years after suffering under martial law, justice and indemnification are still being denied the victims," Albarillo said. "Many parents and siblings of the victims have already died without seeing justice served for their lost relatives."

Albarillo said the Macapagal administration should speed up efforts to give compensation to the victims.

Earlier this month, Biktima-ST and the First Quarter Storm Movement-Southern Tagalog gathered martial law victims in Southern Tagalog to collate documents and affidavits of relatives and victims who are part of around 10,000 claimants.

Malacañang last Saturday ordered the Presidential Commission on Good Government to exhaust all means to recover the $683-million ill-gotten Marcos wealth whose transfer to the Philippines is being blocked by a German bank.

Vigilance

In Cavite, a Catholic bishop reminded churchgoers to keep the vigilance that Catholics had shown during the dark era of martial law.

In a pastoral letter he read yesterday, Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle of the Diocese of Imus said martial law should remind every Filipino to safeguard human rights in order to achieve peace.

He lamented that the International Day of Peace, which coincided with the commemoration of martial law, was marred by turmoil.

Tagle said the hostilities in different parts of the world were caused by the "absence of conscience" among people of powerful nations.

The bishop also assailed globalization, which, he said, was anchored on greed and "competition marred with iniquitous moral values." It undermined the importance of preserving life, he said.

Despite the promise of a "better world," globalization is destroying people's culture and tradition and the environment, according to the bishop. It doesn't care about the preservation of life and natural resources but gives more importance to personal gains, he said.

Father Romano

In Tacloban City, members of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines conducted a simple ceremony to remember the human rights victims of martial law.

About 30 TFDP members laid a wreath on the "Martial Law Memorial Marker for Fr. Rudy Romano" inside the premises of the Redemptorist Church.

Inscribed in the marker, which the group put up during the martial law anniversary last year, was: "In loving memory of Fr. Rudy Romano and to all martial law victims who sacrificed their lives for the Filipino people."

Romano, a Redemptorist priest from Samar, was abducted by armed men believed to be soldiers on July 11, 1985. He was with the Visayas Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace and was Bayan vice president for Central Visayas.

Melvin Anino, Bayan secretary general in Eastern Visayas, said his group would hold a rally to call the people's attention to "the spate of human rights abuses under the present administration, committed in pursuit to fight terrorism, illegal drugs and insurgency."

In a statement, the TFDP said more than a hundred cases of rights violations with almost 13,000 victims were recorded from Jan. 1 to June 30 this year. "All these were committed by the government against its citizens," it said.

Marker in Lanao

In honor of "those who fought for democracy and human rights" especially during the dark years of martial rule, a five-foot high memorial marker was unveiled yesterday morning in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte.

It is one of the 30 sites across the country erected in recognition of those who played a role in organizing grass-roots resistance to martial law.

The marker also pays tribute to the "nameless and faceless whose efforts undermined the legitimacy of the dictatorship."

It should help remind the young generation of the bravery and courage mustered by their parents in opposing Marcos' iron-fisted rule and similar political leadership regimes today and in the future, explained Lourdes Anabieza, a human rights activist working for TFDP.

Other markers include the Ninoy Aquino monument in Makati, Chino Roces monument at the Mendiola Bridge, the Monument for the Disappeared in Baclaran, the People Power monument on Edsa, the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City, a plaza marker for the Escalante massacre victims in Negros Occidental, the Alex Orcullo Park in Davao City, and a plaza marker in Molave, Zamboanga del Sur.

Romel de Vera, head of the TFDP-Mindanao, said the country might be drifting toward martial law. "It becomes relevant therefore, to remember and commemorate martial law's declaration not only saying 'Never Again!,' but also by taking it further and saying, 'Never again to martial law and its manifestations,'" De Vera said.

Traffic snarled

In Laoag, traffic was briefly snarled as activists, led by Bayan-Ilocos chapter, marched around the city's commercial district before stopping in front of the provincial capitol for a three-hour program.

The group tried to gather marchers earlier in the morning but its convoy of three buses was stopped briefly in nearby San Nicolas town.

Bayan's De Vera claimed policemen inspected the buses and asked for the group's permit. "The way we were intercepted was an overkill because the officers were armed with long firearms," he said.

Another busload of protesters, who arrived earlier, was blocked at the Laoag Gilbert Bridge leading to downtown when leaders failed to show policemen their rally permit.

The group was allowed to proceed after the rest of the convoy arrived and showed their permit.

Supt. Joel Pagdilao, city police chief, and 30 baton-wielding policemen escorted the protesters.

"We just want to keep an orderly traffic and make sure that the rally is peaceful," Pagdilao said.

He said the presence of policemen was part of security measures while the Philippine National Police was placed on heightened alert against any possible rebel attack.

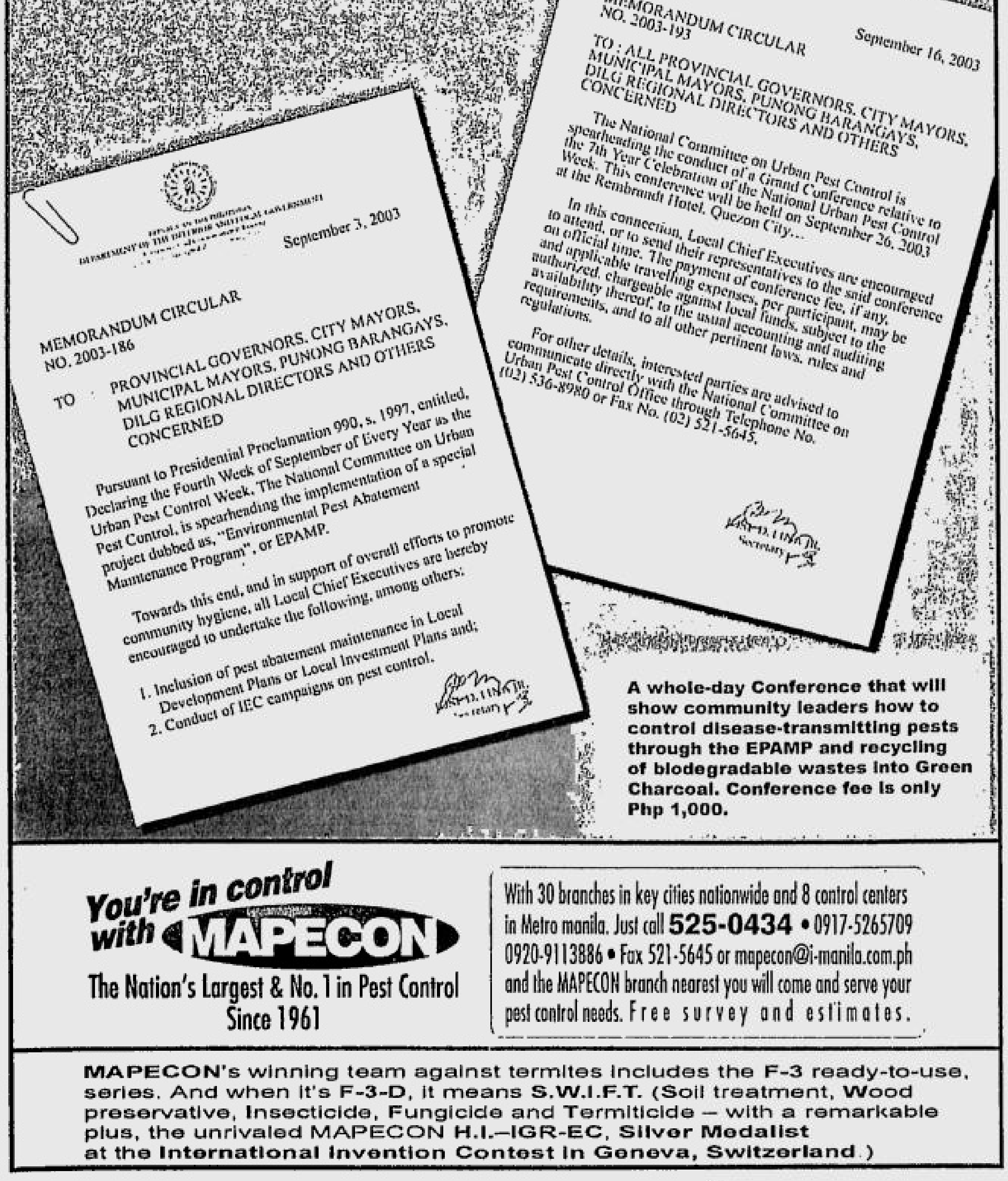
The alert was raised after communist New People's Army raided the police station in Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur, on Sept. 15. Three policemen were killed and four others were wounded in the attack. *Reports from Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Clarice Colting and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Vicente S. Labro PDI Visayas Bureau; and Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

IMAM Mustafa Sanguila, a relative of the Sultan sa Delabayan who was killed in 1971, signs a manifesto declaring "Never Again" to martial rule and its manifestations. RYAN ROSAURO/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

ATTENTION : ALL LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES PUNONG BARANGAYS, NGOs & CIVIL-SOCIETY GROUPS

SUBJECT : DILG Memorandum Circulars No. 2003-186 & No. 2003-193

FROM : Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr.



September 3, 2003

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 2003-186

TO : PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY MAYORS, MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 990, s. 1997, entitled, Declaring the Fourth Week of September of Every Year as the Urban Pest Control Week, The National Committee on Urban Pest Control, is spearheading the implementation of a special project dubbed as, "Environmental Pest Abatement Maintenance Program", or EPAMP.

Towards this end, and in support of overall efforts to promote community hygiene, all Local Chief Executives are hereby encouraged to undertake the following, among others:

1. Inclusion of pest abatement maintenance in Local Development Plans or Local Investment Plans and;
2. Conduct of IEC campaigns on pest control.

D. LINA, JR.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 2003-193

September 16, 2003

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY MAYORS, MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

The National Committee on Urban Pest Control is spearheading the conduct of a Grand Conference relative to the 7th Year Celebration of the National Urban Pest Control Week. This conference will be held on September 26, 2003 at the Rembrandt Hotel, Quezon City...

In this connection, Local Chief Executives are encouraged to attend, or to send their representatives to the said conference on official time. The payment of conference fee, per participant, may be authorized, chargeable against local funds, subject to the availability thereof, to the usual accounting and auditing requirements, and to all other pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

For other details, interested parties are advised to communicate directly with the National Committee on Urban Pest Control Office through Telephone No. (02) 536-8980 or Fax No. (02) 521-5645.

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Vote for transition …

From page A1

tial political adviser Jose Ma. Rufino.

The Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, the largest bloc in the House after the ruling Lakas-CMD, has thrown its support behind the proposal.

NPC leader Rep. Gilberto Teodoro has suggested that under the proposal, the shift to a parliamentary system and the election of a transition President must be completed and approved by plebiscite before the May elections.

Over the weekend, Teodoro renewed the campaign to pressure the Senate to agree to a constituent assembly, urging Senate President Franklin Drilon and the other senators to "rise above institutional loyalties."

Drilon was quoted last week as saying that the Senate was not inclined to allow a constituent assembly, and would insist on a constitutional convention.

"Given the urgency of the situation, senators should give premium now to national interest," said Teodoro, a nephew of Cojuangco who is himself said to be contemplating a run for the presidency.

"The election of 2004 must be for a purpose other than continuing a (presidential) system that has proven inadequate," Teodoro said.

According to the new twin proposals that is gaining ground in the House, the President to be elected in 2004 will serve for only three years until 2007, and this would be provided for in the transitory provisions of an amended Constitution.

Under a parliamentary system, the House of Representatives and the Senate would cease to exist and would be replaced by a unicameral legislature.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (NP, Iloilo City) said of the senators: "Let them answer to their conscience and to the people."

"I will always appeal to the senators to rise above institutional concerns and uphold what is the greater interest of a nation," the congressman said.

The congressmen's renewed push for Charter reform comes as the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats prepare to hold a national directorate convention on Oct. 7 to choose a presidential standard-bearer for 2004.

De Venecia and Ms Macapagal are co-chairs of the ruling party, whose stalwarts have been urging the President to reconsider her Dec. 30 announcement that she would not seek a full term in May.

It is widely believed that Lakas-CMD leaders would opt to draft Ms Macapagal.

"Based on my reading of the minds of party leaders, GMA will be the unanimous choice," said Rep. Prospero Pichay

"Her Dec. 30 announcement was a personal decision and not a party stand, and I believe that she will abide by the decision of Lakas," Pichay said.

Rep. Edmundo Reyes Jr. said a resolution calling to draft the President might start circulating inside the party before the Oct. 7 meeting.

"It will be easy to pass it among Lakas congressmen," Reyes said.

Rep. Prospero Nograles noted that Ms Macapagal was "keeping her cards close to her chest so no one can see."

"Everyone is second-guessing all her moves," Nograles said.

De Venecia earlier said Ms Macapagal was the "overwhelming" choice among Lakas leaders to carry the party's colors in 2004.

Opposition Sen. Eduardo Angara, commenting on a New York Times editorial urging Ms Macapagal to "come clean" on her plans for 2004, said he would not be surprised if the article "may have been influenced by the thinking of Washington."

"This may reflect the White House thinking before President Bush comes here, that Ms Arroyo must now come clean and say whether she is running or not," said Angara, who distributed copies of the Sept. 7 editorial to Senate reporters last week.

"By declaring her intentions, the President will remove speculations that Bush's trip here was a political endorsement for her," he said.

"Because, in fairness to the American government, they don't want that to happen … They don't want Mr. Bush's presence in the Philippines exploited for partisan considerations," he added.

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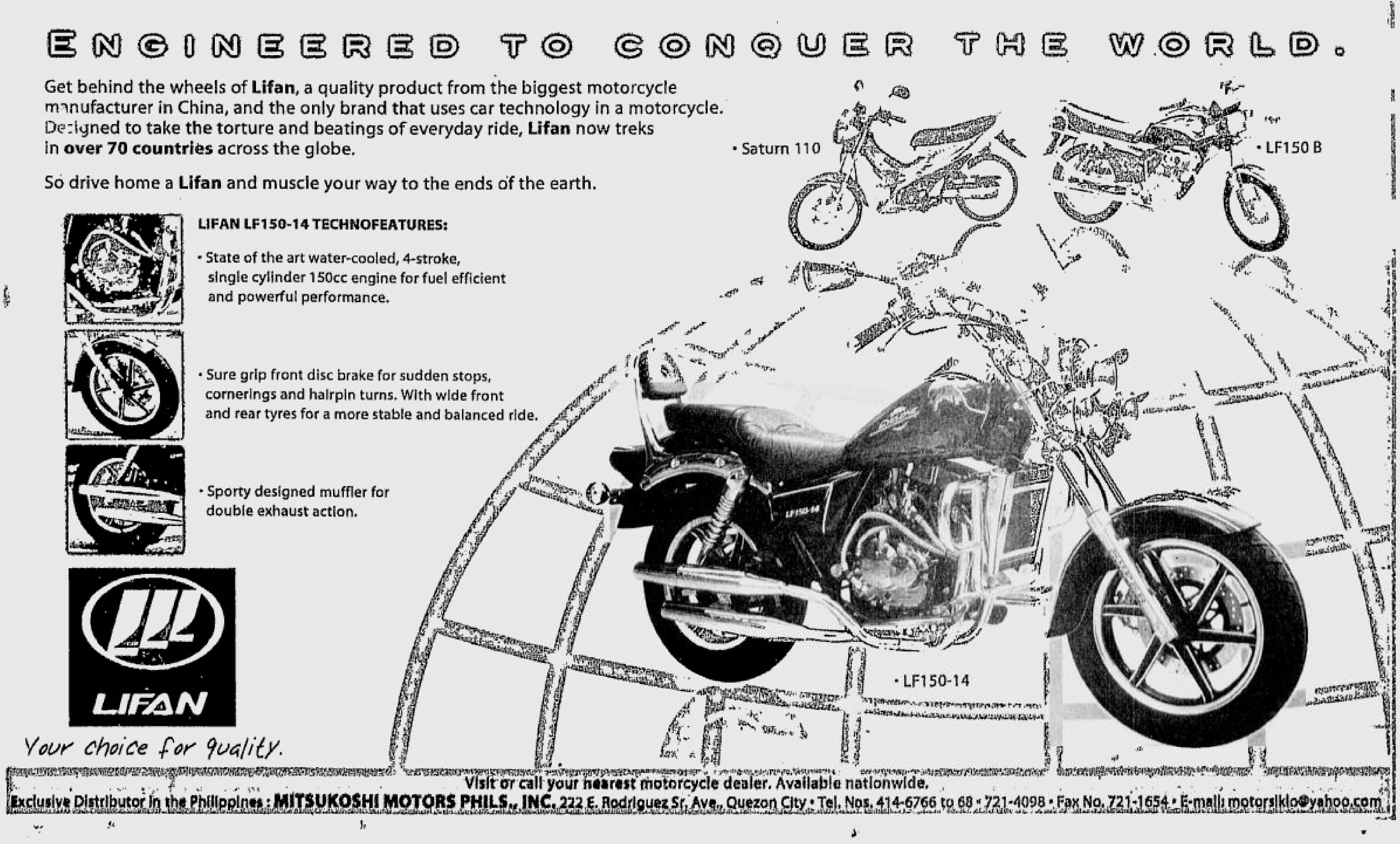
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Amid controversy, order looms

PEOPLE now abound along a stretch of Avenida Rizal, which cars, jeepneys and other vehicles used to dominate. At left, strollers rest amid sculptured vegetation. PHOTOS BY ERIK ARAZAS

Despite a legal question, the once gloomy, dirty and congested Rizal Avenue moves on to slowly become a paradise for the pedestrian

A PARK is slowly taking shape into what once was a traffic bottleneck dreaded by motorists and passengers.

By Tarra Quismundo

PLANT boxes now abound where the street used to be. On the giant pillars of the Light Rail Transit, Spanish tiles adorn.

On the ground, red, yellow and grey tiles pave the way where cars, jeepneys and trucks used to rule.

Because of such development, a 500-meter stretch of Avenida Rizal from Carriedo and Claro M. Recto Avenue is in the middle of a controversy.

On one side is Manila Mayor Joselito "Lito" Atienza and City Hall. On the other is a resident and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The question is "Will this portion of the once gloomy, dirty and congested avenue move on to become a pedestrian's paradise or revert back to its former metallic, gas-guzzling and smoke-puffing masters?"

In August, Atienza said the banning of vehicles from Avenida was permanent, since the idea of pedestrianization was to "withdraw vehicular use" to give back the road to pedestrians.

Last week, a compromise appeared. DPWH Assistant Secretary Rafael Yabut acknowledged that vehicles could still use the stretch being pedestrianized although the volume was much smaller.

"I already saw some vehicles parked in the area," Yabut said.

Yabut went to inspect Avenida and saw delivery trucks bringing goods to business establishments.

He expressed the opinion that the tiles used to pave the road could withstand the weight and volume of the vehicles.

City Engineer Armand Andres said that development work, including the paving of the road and plastering of tiles on the LRT posts, were halfway finished.

However, Yabut said, "We will have to sit down with (City Hall officials) to know if they would allow light vehicles or cargo trucks to pass through."

Yabut said, "We can understand each other."

After their talks, the DPWH official said he would then ask the opinion of the justice department on the legality of the closure.

THE NEW atmosphere on Avenida is too relaxing to some.

But Manila City Legal Officer Melchor Monsod said the legality question was already settled.

"Everything is legal," said Monsod, who was among the city officials who met with DPWH officials on Monday last week to thresh out issues regarding the avenue's pedestrianization.

Monsod added that he did not think the DPWH would ask them to again open the avenue to vehicles since it would cause the area "to deteriorate faster than it was improved."

According to him, while the avenue was a national road, it was within the city's jurisdiction.

"We have repaired national roads and are repairing right now. We don't have to wait for another agency (to implement repairs). You cannot put the welfare of Manila on hold," Monsod told the INQUIRER.

He pointed out that the pedestrianization was in accordance with the Local Government Code.

The portion of Rizal Avenue was closed to vehicles in June.

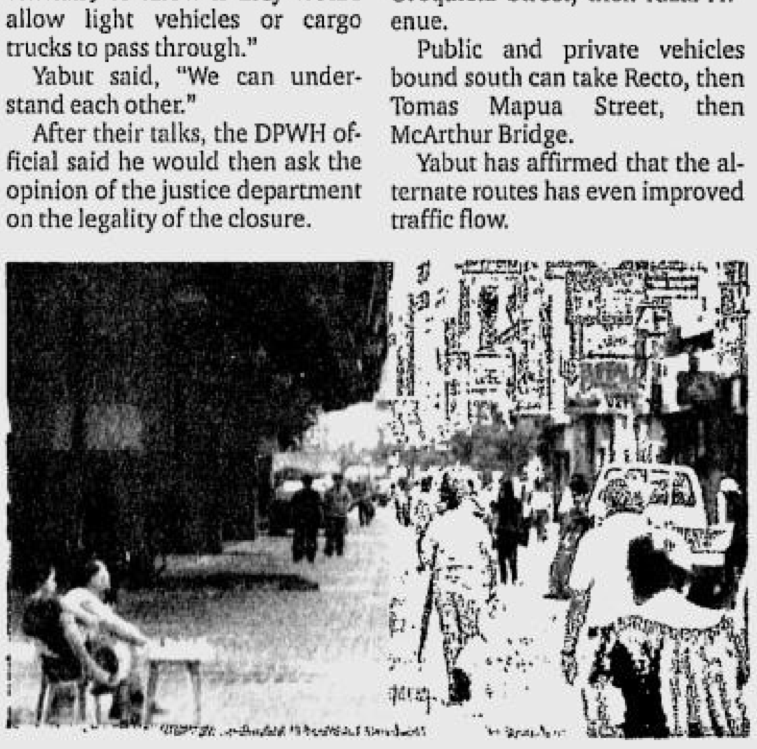
This resulted in rerouting of traffic using the smaller streets in the area.

For northbound public utility vehicles, the rerouting takes them to Carlos Palanca Street from McArthur Bridge, left to Estero Cegado Street, right to Ronquillo, left to Evangelista, right to Recto Avenue, right to Oroquieta Street, then back to Avenida.

Private vehicles going the same way may take Florentino Torres Street, then Recto Avenue, then Oroquieta Street, then Rizal Avenue.

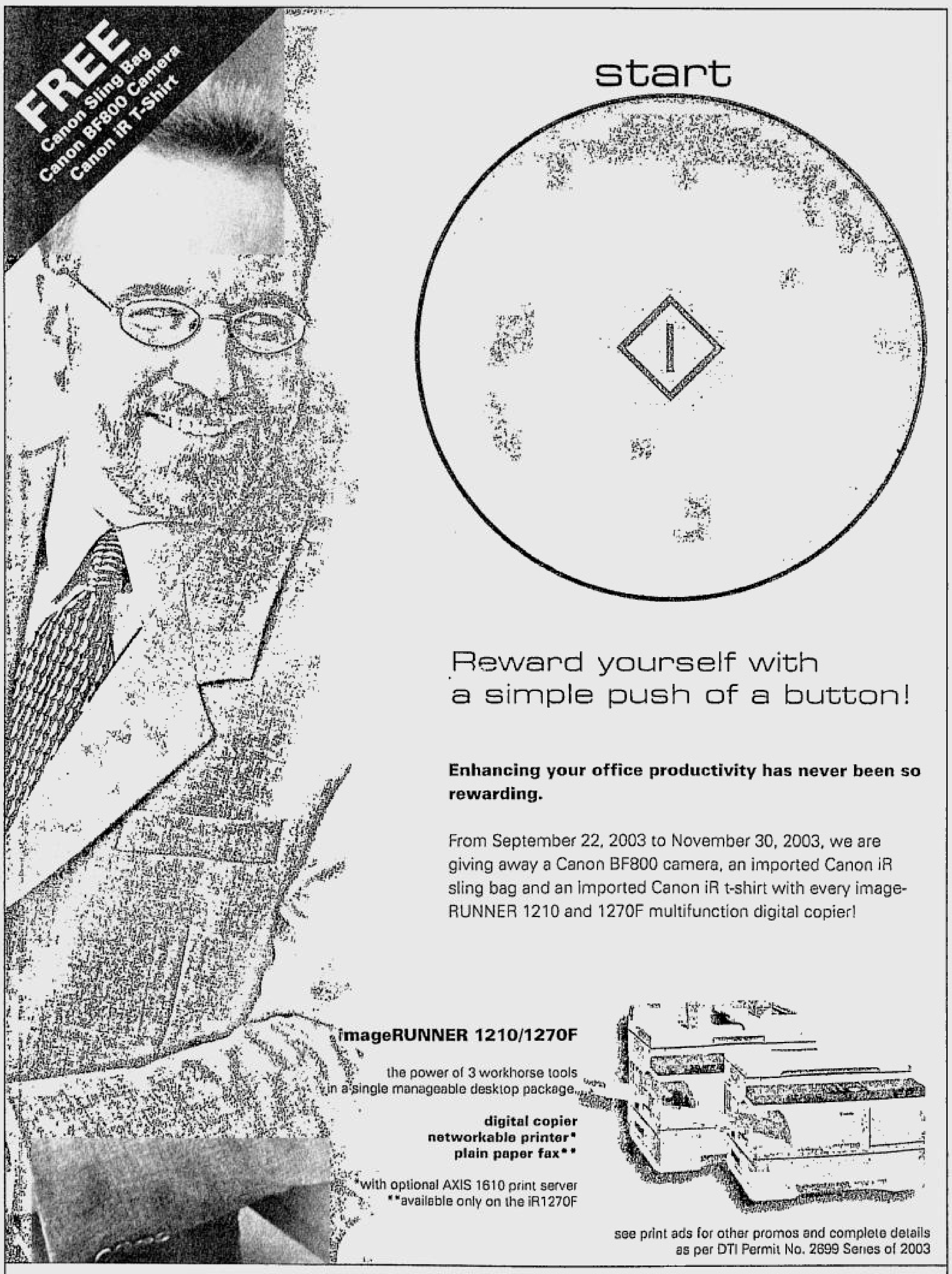
Public and private vehicles bound south can take Recto, then Tomas Mapua Street, then McArthur Bridge.

Yabut has affirmed that the alternate routes has even improved traffic flow.



PEOPLE have started walking back to Avenida amid the shops and businesses that were almost lost in the shadow of the LRT.

PHOTOS BY ERIK ARAZAS



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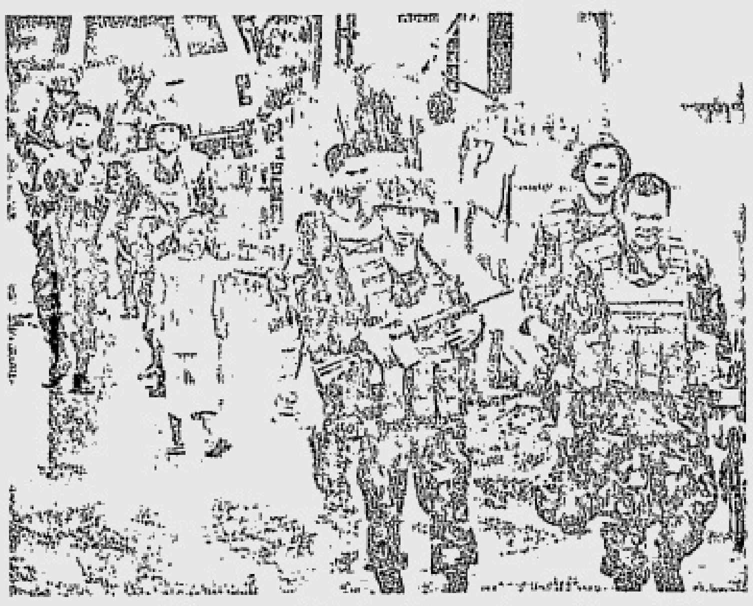
Bliss found may soon be bliss lost in Pasig



WITH their mission accomplished, soldiers walk easy through Palar Village in Taguig. ERIK ARAZAS

Taguig village raided

From page A24

swooped down on Palar Village in Taguig at 5:30 a.m.

They arrested suspects Noel Cordero, Rodolfo Balbuena, Joel Montevirgen and Belisario Belen, who were said to have been dismissed from the military service in 2001.

Other arrested suspects were Wilfred Penamayor, Rey Luzano, Reynald Hajihil, Roberto Barba, Remy Pamplona and Danilo Marcos.

Barba is said to be a member of the Guardians Brotherhood while Pamplona is a former security guard.

During the raid, Montevirgen tried to shoot it out with policemen and was injured. He is now undergoing treatment at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Police seized two M-16 assault rifles, four .45-caliber pistols, a .22-caliber pistol, two .38-caliber pistols, a shotgun, an airgun, a hand grenade, assorted bullets, bonnets and gloves. All firearms were found to be unlicensed.

Also confiscated was a vehicle with plate number CAR 882.

The raiding team was armed with a total of 26 search warrants issued by Pasay Regional Trial Court Judge Vicente Yap of Branch 114 and Pasig Regional Trial Court Judge Jose Hernandez of Branch 158.

Matillano said the raid was based on intelligence reports and information culled from field agents conducting surveillance operations in Taguig. "It seems that every time there is a bank robbery, they keep running to that (Taguig) area," he said.

He added that they have yet to establish the links of the suspects to alleged plots to destabilize the Arroyo government and to politicians out to collect campaign funds for the next elections.

Malacañang earlier linked the recent spate of bank robberies to destabilization plots.

University professor found dead in room

By Tarra Quismundo

THE POLICE are looking at robbery as a cause for the killing of an Adamson University professor in Sta. Mesa, Manila, yesterday.

Social Science professor Arnel Bautista, single, 48, and an employee of the Department of Agriculture, was found dead inside his rented unit at D-10, Building 28, Phase 3, GSIS Metrohomes, on Pureza Street corner Anonas Street at about 12:30 p.m.

His nephew, Setiel Bautista, and security guard Allan Lim-it, forced open Bautista's room after the victim did not answer the door.

They found Bautista beside his bed. He had a with a massive head injury.

PO3 Dennis Javier of the Western Police District Homicide Division said the victim might have been dead since 4 a.m., as the body was already stiff.

His two cellular phones, an undetermined amount of cash and jewelry were missing. The room was in disarray.

Bautista's VCD player and television set were still on when investigators arrived. They also found cans of beer inside the room.

MOVE in or stay out.

This warning goes out to all who have been awarded units at the Karangalan Medium Rise Housing (MRH) Project in Pasig City.

It comes from National Housing Authority (NHA) general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan who issued a statement after the INQUIRER came out with a story on the project that has remained "untended, untenanted and unlit."

The housing project, more popularly referred to as "Bliss" along Kaginhawahan Street, Barangay Manggahan, boasts of 10 buildings with 60 units each or a total of 600 units waiting to be occupied.

In his statement, Pamintuan disclosed that the project had been "fully awarded and all beneficiaries have already been issued moving in notices."

Despite the awarding, however, Pamintuan said beneficiaries might still lose their units if they fail to move in immediately.

The NHA had given beneficiaries 45 days to occupy their units or the agency would be forced to give these away to other qualified persons, the general manager said.

According to Pamintuan, the Karangalan project was readily available for occupancy. In fact, President Macapagal-Arroyo personally inaugurated 360 awarded units on Aug. 18, 2003.

A20 METRO
KARANGALAN BLISS
Untended, untenanted, unlit

THE INQUIRER report that came out on Sept. 19, 2003.

"The President has opened the Karangalan MRH and individual families are renovating their respective units," he said.

"For our beneficiaries to finally move in, we're waiting for them to submit necessary documents and pay the required rental fees," the NHA head added.

Reacting to the INQUIRER story, Pamintuan admitted that there were "some delays" with the project, but these were all being addressed.

He explained that although the project started in August 1998, it was only recently that construction-related and power problems were being resolved.

"It was only during this administration that the NHA fast tracked the Karangalan MRH Project that resulted in the immediate awarding of its units," Pamintuan stressed.

Explaining why the buildings still did not have electricity, he said the energization of every unit shall be effected only with actual occupancy of the beneficiaries as required by the Manila Electric Company.

He said the NHA was not requiring a P750 monthly maintenance fee but was merely asking for a P150 miscellaneous fee, which includes fire insurance, security services and upkeep of the buildings and surroundings.

Furthermore, beneficiaries are required only to pay one month advance and one month deposit ranging from P750 to P1,700, depending on the unit location (first floor to fifth floor).

He noted that NHA's MRH projects were complete with basic services and amenities which provide core units for the beneficiaries to do improvements.

Bigger antidrug drive urged

By Nelson Forte Flores

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. is calling for the total mobilization of the country's resources to destroy the multi-billion peso drug industry.

Lina, in an interview, said it would take a determined effort by the Filipino nation to crush the P216 to P432 billion illegal drugs industry.

He said that with the expiration of the Sept. 18 deadline set by Malacañang for the drug enforcement agencies to crack down on known drug lords, there was still a need not only to maintain current efforts but to raise target levels.

"Only the total mobilization of the country's resources and society, down to the barangay level, would lead to a complete victory against illegal drugs," Lina stressed.

He explained that according to a 1999 survey, there were at least 1.8 million regular drug users in the country who consumed an average of five to 10 grams monthly or P216 billion worth of illegal drugs a year.

"This amount is a drain to our economy and a blessing for drug lords," Lina stressed.

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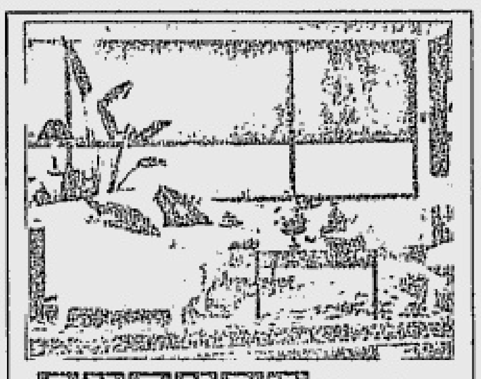

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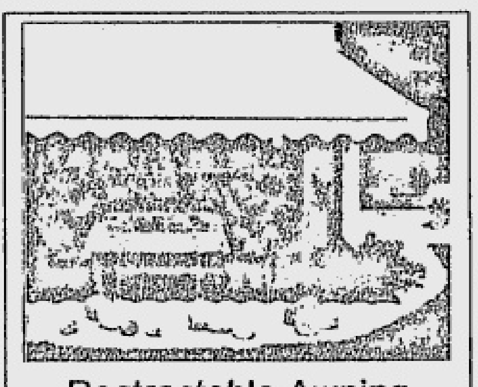

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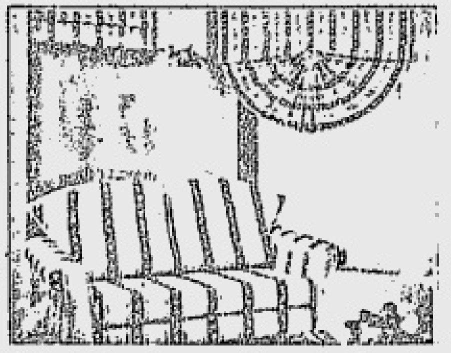

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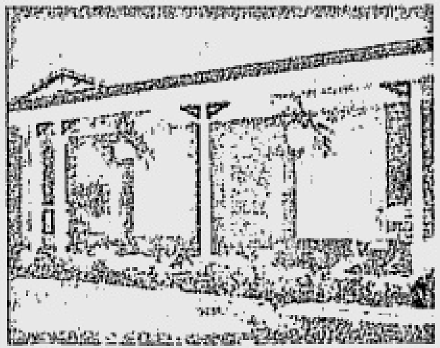

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Van hits family of 4

Father and mother killed; children hurt

By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.

A COUPLE was killed while their two young children were hurt when a speeding van slammed into them on Edsa in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Richard and Maricris Gardoce, both 28, Samantha, 2, and Jake, 1, had reportedly just come from Mass when tragedy struck at 10:20 a.m. near the North Avenue station of the Metro Rail Transit.

SPO2 Felicisimo Cuaresma Jr. said the family was walking along the northbound lane of the highway when they decided to cross in front of Marcelo's Kambingan.

They were already in the middle of the northbound lane when they saw a bus speeding toward them.

The parents backtracked but walked into the path of the Isuzu van driven by Eugenio Carolino Jr., who hit the family.

Carolino brought Richard and the children to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, while witnesses rushed Maricris to the Quezon City General Hospital.

Richard and Maricris were declared dead on arrival. Samantha suffered serious gashes while Jake sustained bruises.

The van driver is detained at the Central Police District Traffic Enforcement Office facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries.

A RAIDER escorts two of the suspects arrested in the morning raid. ERIK ARAZAS

10 bank rob suspects fall in raid

By Alcuin Valle Papa

AN EARLY morning raid yesterday in Taguig by a combined force from the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines led to the arrest of 10 suspected bank robbers, four of them dismissed soldiers.

However, the police have yet to determine who among the suspects could be involved in the Citibank robbery in Makati and those wanted for the other bank robberies in Metro Manila.

"They are suspects in the series of bank robberies in Metro Manila and we are still investigating which incidents they are specifically involved in," Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief Director Eduardo Matillano told a press conference in Camp Crame yesterday.

He added they also have yet to determine whether the suspects are members of the Kuratong Baleleng Group, which has been tagged in the series of robberies in the metropolis.

A large composite team from the CIDG, the PNP Intelligence Group, the Traffic Management Group, the Special Action Force, the National Capital Region Police Office, the Intelligence Service of the AFP, the Army Intelligence and Security Group and the Marines

TAGUIG/ A23

Metro trash not welcome in Tarlac

NO WAY.

This was the strong reply an official of the Regional Development Council of Central Luzon gave in reaction to a reported plan to allow the dumping of Metro Manila garbage in Capas, Tarlac.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun had earlier asked if the Kalangitan landfill in Capas could be opened as dump site for trash from Metro Manila.

But Jesus David, consumers representative and co-chair of the economic development sector of RDC, said they would oppose the move.

David said, though, that waste from other Central Luzon provinces could be accommodated at the landfill.

David said it was not fair that the cities of Metro Manila keep on reclaiming sites and developing commercial centers but could not find a place for their own garbage.

He said that the RDC has formed a technical working group to study the proposal but would confine its scope to provinces within Central Luzon only.

Metro Manila is out of the topic, he said.

David also lamented what he described as an attempt to railroad the issue because the RDC was not invited in the Sept. 4 public hearing called by Tarlac's provincial board on the matter and attended by Gozun.

David said the council should have been invited to the hearing on the Tarlac landfill, one of the major projects monitored by the RDC.

The hearing was called by the provincial board based on Gozun's letter endorsing the request of the Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. (MCWMC), operator of the landfill, to allow other areas to dump their waste into the landfill.

A separate letter of request from the Department of Health to dump treated hospital waste from Metro Manila hospitals was also discussed in the hearing.

During the hearing, Lena Villarama of MCWMC admitted they would accommodate one fourth of the 8,000 tons of garbage that Metro Manila is producing daily.

This is the maximum they can accept, as the landfill's daily capacity is only 1,500 tons, she said. *Jo Clemente, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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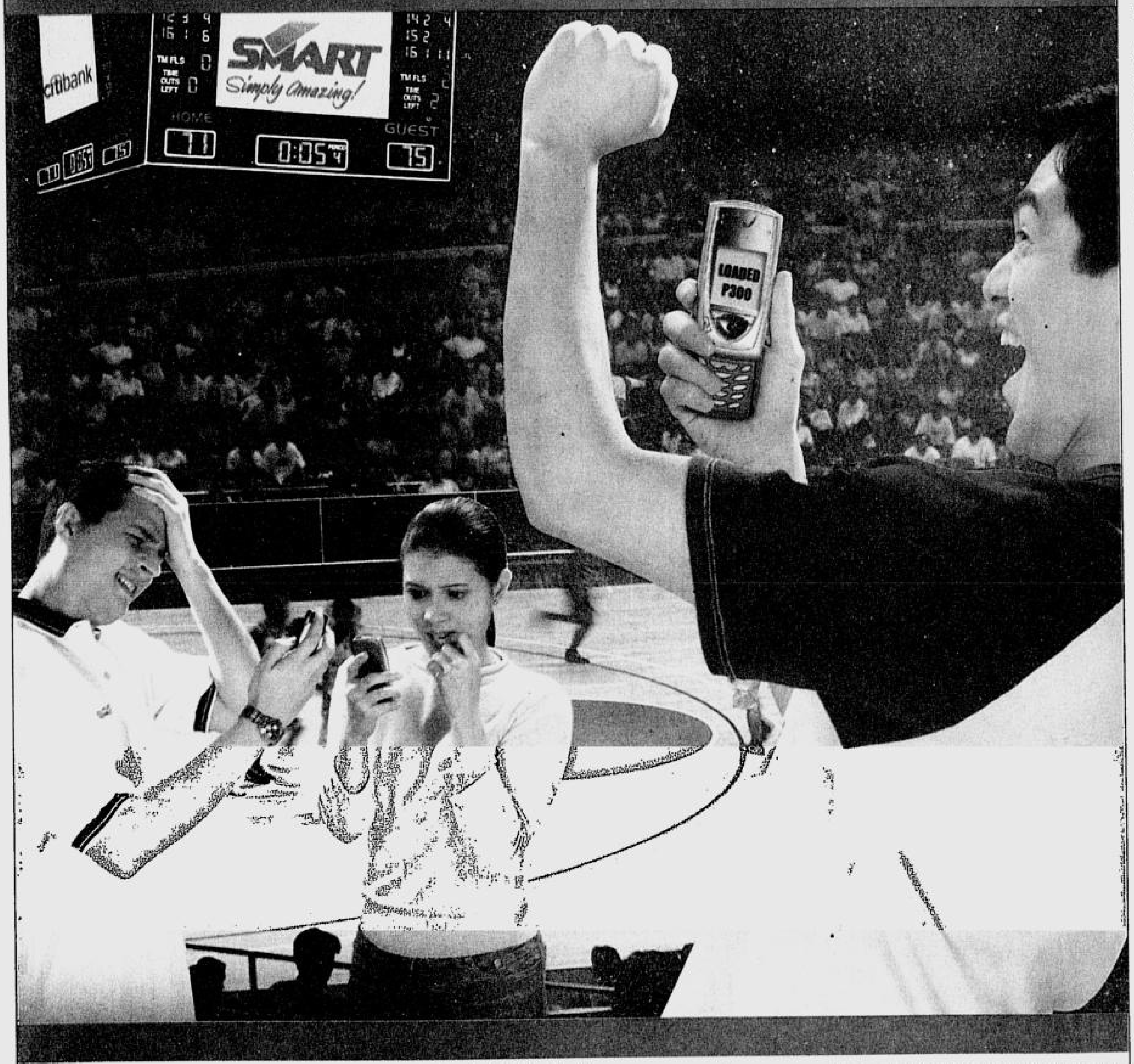

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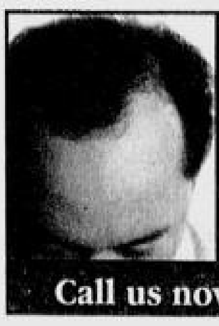

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Tams secure 2nd 'twice' privilege

GAMES THURSDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—FEU vs UE (Men's)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle (Men's)

By Dennis U. Eroa

FAR Eastern nearly blew an 18-point lead before turning back University of the East, 80-75, yesterday to clinch the second twice-to-beat edge in the Final Four of the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Warriors, who gained a shot at finishing No. 2 when the UAAP board upheld their protest against the winning shot in their game with the La Salle Archers Thursday, stormed within one at 70-71 from 51-69, but couldn't go all the way.

Veteran point guard Dennis Miranda, Mark Isip and Arwind Santos regained their touch down the stretch and the Tamaraws went on to join the Ateneo Eagles in the Final Four, needing only to win once against the same Warriors to reach the finals.

The Eagles, who wound up as No. 1 over the Tams and the Warriors via the quotient system that broke their three-way tie, will face their pet nemesis Archers in the other Final Four pairing Thursday at the Big Dome.

RJ Masbang, who finished with 17 points, capped the explosive 19-2 UE comeback with a three-point play off Santos' fourth foul, but the Warriors' celebration ended abruptly.

Unnerved by the sudden twist of events, Miranda sank a jumper and, after a UE miscue, Isip made it 75-70.

FEU went on to take a 78-70 lead behind Santos but Masban kept UE's flickering hopes alive with a five-point burst, before Santos stopped the uprising for good with a tip-in of Miranda's miss.

James Yap led UE with 27 points.

Earlier, senior engineering student Regina Velarde made three free throws in the final 30 seconds and lifted La Salle to a hard-earned 56-49 triumph over Ateneo to take the No. 3 spot in the women's Final Four.

Spirited Erika Dy bannered Ateneo's comeback from 14 points down, 51-37, at the start of the fourth period but the 5-foot-6 Velarde came to the rescue of the Lady Archers in the clutch.

After Dy's daredevil drive moved the Lady Eagles within 49-53, Velarde was fouled by Cassandra Tioseco and calmly sank her charities. After successive misses by the Eagles, Velarde pegged the final score with another free throw.

With the win, La Salle, aiming for its fifth straight title, will battle UP in the Final Four. Ateneo clashes with elimination

TAMS/ A26

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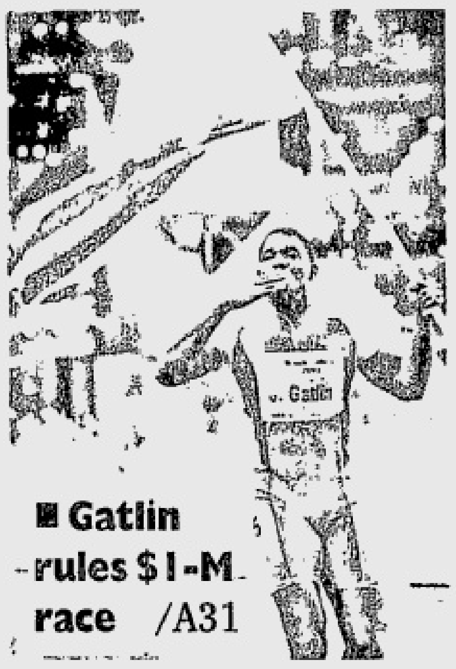
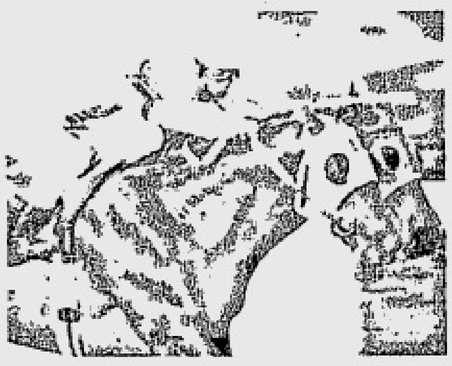


■ Gatlin rules $1-M race /A31



■ Don Paolo captures second leg /A32

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Bills vs Dolphins; 8 a.m (r-5 p.m.): ESPN—Buffalo clashes with Miami in this AFC encounter

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Game-Raptors vs Sixers, Game 7 2001 Eastern Semifinals; 8 a.m . Solar Sports—Toronto has a chance to win, but Vince Carter's long-range jump shot misses the mark as the buzzer sounds. Allen Iverson leads Philadelphia with 21 points and a career-high 16 assists. Carter finishes with 20 points, 7 rebounds and 9 assists in the loss.

NBA Summer League-Spurs vs Jazz; 11 a.m.(r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Defending champion San Antonio renews its Midwest Conference rivalry with Utah in the off-season

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Bronze for Lerma, 'Vertek' as China rushes for golds

By Roy Luarca

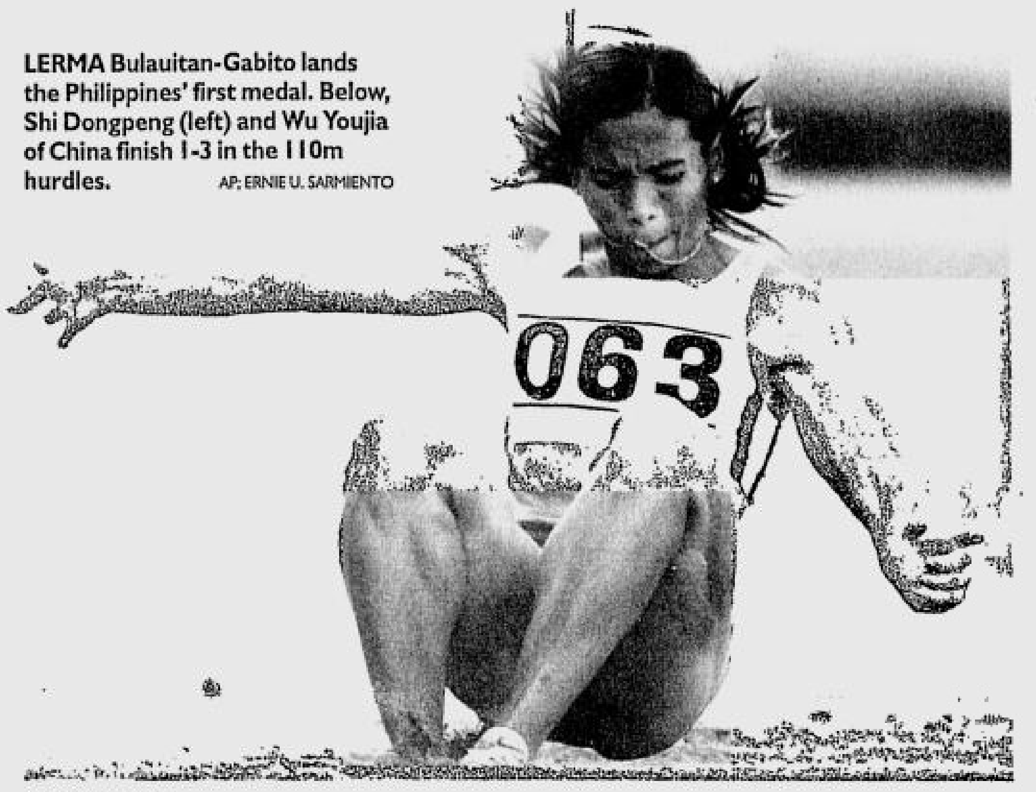
LONG Jumper Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and long-distance marvel Eduardo "Vertek" Buenavista lived up to expectations, taking the bronze medals in their respective events as the Philippines barged into the medal column of the 15th Asian Athletics Association championships being dominated by world power China yesterday at the Rizal track and field stadium.

Gabito's last jump turned out to be her best. Egged on by a crowd that included her mother, Gabito cleared a personal best 6.50 meters on her sixth attempt to clinch the bronze in the women's triple jump won by Uzbekistan's Anastasiya Juravleva with a leap of 6.53m. China's Liang Shuyan took the silver with a 6.51m effort.

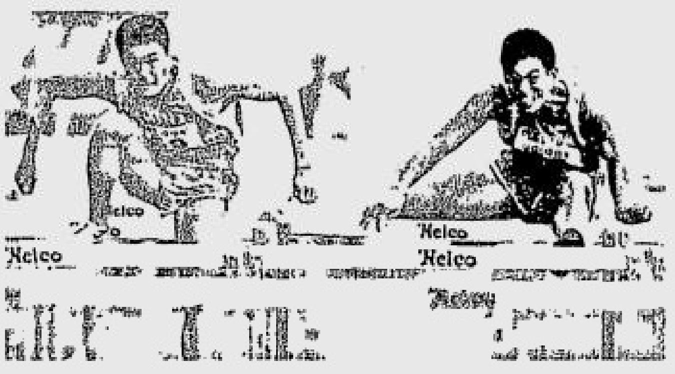
Buenavista, barely 5-foot tall, clocked 30 minutes, 6.29 seconds in the 10,000m run won by Qatar's Ahmad Hassan Abdullah in 28:45.64.

"*Nag-focus lang ako, tapos bahala na* (I just concentrated on my final jump)," said the 27-year-old Gabito of Peñaranda, Cagayan Valley. "I was expecting to win a medal, but I wasn't thinking of surpassing my personal record (6.48m).

Gabito took the silver in the Colombo 3As last year with a 6.40m effort.



LERMA Bulauitan-Gabito lands the Philippines' first medal. Below, Shi Dongpeng (left) and Wu Youjia of China finish 1-3 in the 110m hurdles. AP; ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



The 24-year-old Buenavista seized the lead in the second lap and held it until the 11th when Abdullah and Bahrain's Abdulhak Zakaria wrested control.

"*Na*-inspire *ako sa panalo ni* Lerma, *kaya talagang lumakas ang kumpiyansa ko*," said the Sto. Niño, Cotabato native.

While the bronzes of Gabito and Buenavista made the Filipinos happy, the Chinese were also joyously piling up golds in the 42-nation, four-day event.

After sweeping the first four golds staked Saturday, the Chinese got four more courtesy of Chen Haijian in the men's century dash, Su Yiping in the women's 100m hurdles, Shi Dongpeng in the 110m hurdles and Wu Sha in the women's pole vault.

Chen crowned himself as the meet's fastest with a time of 10.25 seconds as he thwarted the challenge of Kazakhstan's Gennadiy Chernovol (10.27) and Saudi Arabia's Salem Al-Yami (10.28).

Su clocked 13.09 seconds, besting compatriot Feng Yun (13.25) and Thailand's Trecia Roberts (13.29). Shi timed 13.50 seconds to beat Korea's Park Tae-kyong (13.71) and teammate Wu Youjia (13.8).

FAWZI Al Shammari of Kuwait jubilates after ruling the men's 400m.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Wu cleared 4.20m to beat Japanese Takayo Kondo (4.10m) and Indonesia's Ni Putu Desy Margawati (3.90m).

Kuwait's Al Linkawe snapped China's streak by topping the men's hammer throw with 70.62m, edging Japanese Horoaki Doi (70.11m).

Myanmar's Yin Yin Khine followed by ruling the women's 400m in 52.96 seconds, nipping China's Fanfang Bu (52.97).

China was way ahead in the medal race with 8 golds, 3 silvers and 2 bronzes, followed by Uzbekistan (1-1-0), Kuwait (1-0-0), Kyrgyztan (1-0-0), Qatar (1-0-0), Vietnam (1-0-0), Japan (0-1-1), Korea (0-1-0), Iran (0-1-0) and Sri Lanka (0-1-0).

Earlier, Filipino Joebert Delicano cleared 7.56m and made it to the finals of the men's long jump.

Though Delicano's effort fell short of his personal best of 7.64m, which was good for the silver in the 2001 SEA Games, he fared better than rivals Mod Haznah Zainal Abidin (7.52) of Malaysia and Nguyen Van Mua (7.46) of Vietnam.

Other Filipino bets faltered against the strong opposition.

Mary Grace Mabanas and Julie Rose Forbes both finished fifth and last in heats 1 and 2 of the women's 400m, while Doming Manata also failed to qualify in the men's 400m.

SEA Games marathon queen Christabel Martes, Mercedita Manipol and Flordeliza Cachero placed 4-5-6 in the women's 10,000m won by China's Sun Yingie late Saturday.

RJ Masbang of UE intercepts a pass by Dennis Miranda of FEU. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Tams secure 2nd'twice' . . .

From page A25

topnotcher Adamson in the other semifinal pairing.

Adamson, which finished with an 11-1 card and UP (8-4) enjoy twice-to-beat privileges. La Salle and Ateneo, which is in its first ever Final Four, wound up tied with 7-5 cards.

Michelle Laureola had six points in the third period as the Lady Archers broke the game wide open, 49-37. Velarde, later gave La Salle its biggest lead, 51-37, at the start of the fourth period.

Velarde paced La Salle with 19 points while Dy finished with a game-high 24 for Ateneo.

Scores:

Second Game (Women's)

LA SALLE 56—Velarde 19, Prado 9, Manosca 8, Laureola 6, Mitra 5, Alon-alon 5, Galan 4, Oue 0, Tan 0

ATENEO 49—Dy 24, Quimpo 7, Caynap 6, Chua 4, Tioseco 2, Tan-chi 2, Ngo 2, Villanueva 2, La Rosa 0.

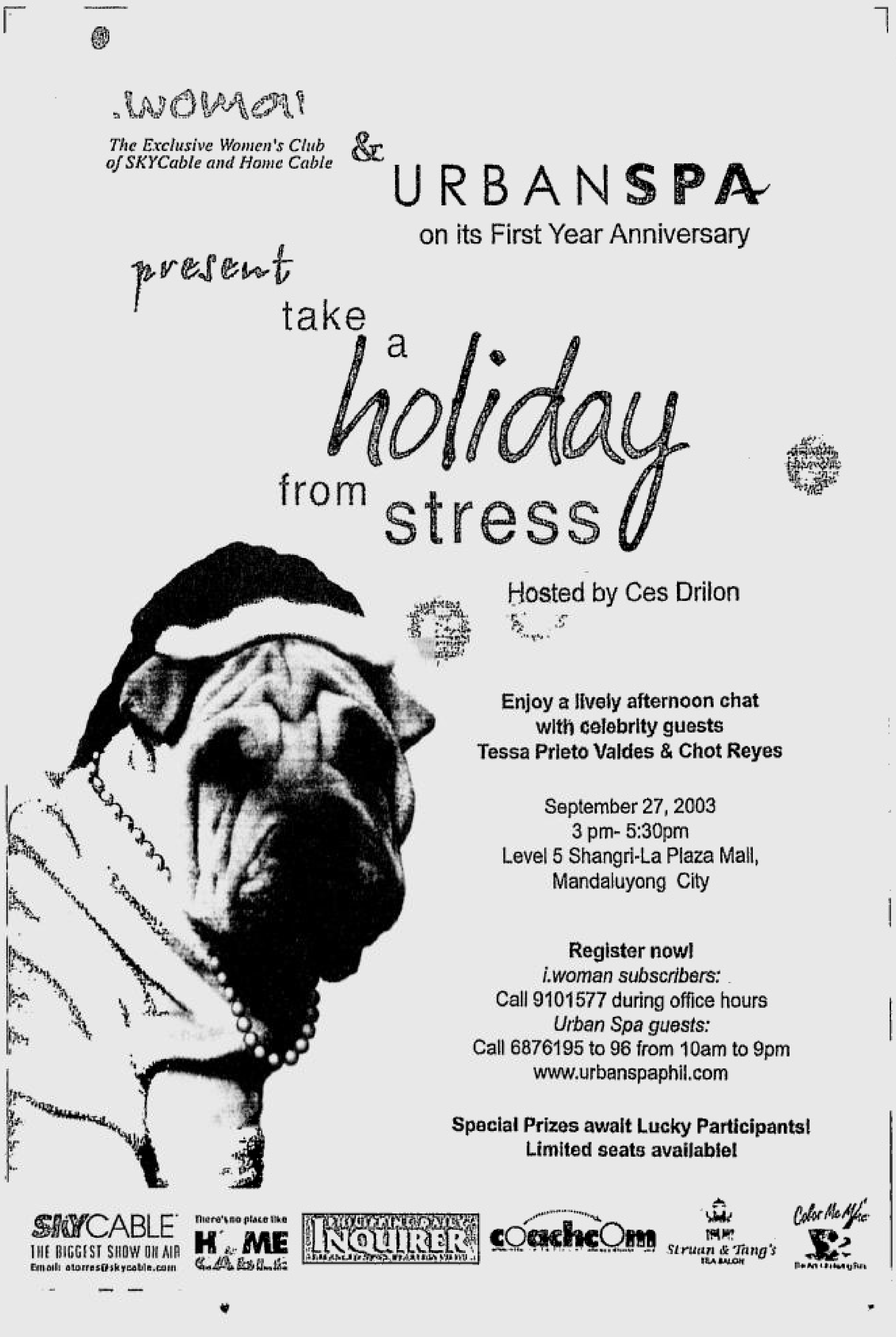
Quarters: 24-18, 35-28, 49-37, 56-49

Third Game (Men's)

FEU 80—Miranda 16, Catli 15, Jones 12, Isip 12, Santos 11, Chan 4, Rizada 4, Sierra 4, Sinco 2, Razon 0.

UE 75—Yap 27, Masban 17, Artadi 14, Omiping 10, Estrada 3, Booker 2, Alminario 2, Tan 0, Butel 0, Hubalde 0.

Quarters: 24-19, 44-32, 64-49, 80-75



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Alapag shines, powers Pals past T'chargers

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Makati Coliseum*)
5 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Ginebra

By June Navarro

TALK 'N Text, drawing the strongest game so far from Jimmy Alapag, stopped fastbreak-minded Shell, 98-93, last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Alapag poured 11 of his 20 points in the final quarter and dished off a season-high 15 assists to lead the Phone Pals to their fifth straight victory, the longest streak in the conference.

Asi Taulava was also exceptional, banging in 29 points as he took over the scoring sock from Damien Cantrell and grabbed 17 rebounds for the Phone Pals, who solidified their hold of second place in Group B with a 5-1 record.

"Damien was off but he made up for it in defense," said Talk 'N Text interim coach Virgil Villavicencio, who again handled the Phone Pals with help from fellow coaches Ariel Vanguardia, Aric Del Rosario and Maz Trakh.

Cantrell, who sank a jumper at the buzzer that led to a formal Purefoods protest on Saturday, failed to exploit the absence of Sedric Webber, but his 17 points and 24 rebounds proved crucial in the end.

Webber fractured his right ankle against FedEx last week and showed up in crutches with his foot in a heavy cast.

With Webber watching helplessly from the sidelines, the Turbochargers absorbed their third setback in five games.

"Still, we had a difficult time beating Shell. They made us pay for our complacency by running several fastbreak plays," said Villavicencio.

"What we did was settle for the patterns and slow down the ballgame to break Shell's momentum," he added.

Alapag, overshadowed by Taulava and Cantrell in the Phone Pals' victory run after an opening-day setback, grabbed the limelight this time.

The 5-foot-8 Alapag completed a three-point play off Chris Calaguio and followed it up with a slashing layup to put the Phone Pals ahead, 90-84, with less than four minutes remaining.

Tony Dela Cruz and Calaguio scored on fastbreaks to keep the Turbochargers within striking distance but Alapag finished them off with a breakaway layup and two free throws down the stretch.

NBA veteran Scott Burrell shot 26 points as Red Bull Barako trimmed Alaska, 91-79, in the second game.

Scores:

TNT 98—Taulava 29, Alapag 20, Cantrell 17, Ravena 13, Carey 8, Pablo 6, Belano 3, Telan 2, Fran 0.

SHELL 93—De la Cruz 23, Laure 18, Singson 14, Tubid 11, Calaguio 11, Jackson 7, Bajar 4, Marzan 3, Hrabak 2, Canlas 0.

Quarters: 27-21, 51-52, 75-75, 98-93.

Second Game

RED BULL 91—Burrell 26, Harp 19, Villanueva 10, Pennisi 8, Se 6, Miller 6, Torion 6, Robinson 4, Valenzuela 4, Tugade 2, Reyes 0.

ALASKA 79—Fontaine 23, Cortez 16, Peek 14, Allado 8, Arigo 8, Feihl 4, Cablay 2, Noble 2, Duat 2, Padilla 0, Camaso 0.

Quarterscores: 22-18, 50-38, 67-63, 91-79.

Unbeaten Gejon KOs Agcopra

Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

BALAMBAN, Cebu—Unbeaten Yukka "Wiseguy" Gejon justified his World Boxing Council No. 3 minifly ranking by knocking out Julius Agcopra in the second round here Friday.

The lanky power-punching Gejon punished Agcopra right at the start of their 10-round clash before putting his rival away with a stinging left uppercut to the jaw one minute 44 seconds into the second round.

"I will work for a possible world title shot for Gejon in the near future. I'm attending the WBC Convention next month," said Gejon's manager Rex "Wakee" Salud, who traveled two hours to this industrial town just to watch his protégé at ringside with Balamban Mayor Alex Binghay and Cebu City Councilor George Rama.

Gejon raised his unbeaten streak to 16 wins (10 KOs) and one draw.

In the other mainer, Elmer "Sinangag Attack" Gejon proved too much for Edwin Tacbobo, winning by technical knockout at the end of the seventh round.

Boxing is a world of give and take

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LET'S start with a sparkling quote.

"Not since the Great Train Robbery have millions of boxing followers regaled to a classic heist perpetrated by the trio of sight-impaired judges who worked the Oscar De La Hoya-Shane Mosley world championship setto at the MGM Grand. Indeed, Oscar did what was expected of him as defending champ, winning the bout handily. But shockingly, the egregious ring judges, afflicted perhaps by an acute cataract ailment which only the likes of Dr. Arnold Salud of the American Eye Center could fix, gave it to the undeserving Mosley. So an instant 'laser op' should be administered to this blind bunch, else this fistic anomaly will recur to haunt us when such physical debate—as you call it—takes place again."

That, of course, was from boxing expert Hermie Rivera, fresh from a successful surgical eye repair himself.

***

Listen to Adin B. Abillar of 4 Visayas Ave., Quezon City. He sent this piece to the feedback section but it was passed on to us:

"A lot of people, self-proclaimed experts and respected boxing scholars alike, share the observation that Mosley won by sheer quality of the punches he connected at De La Hoya. They say, and I agree, that in professional boxing, the harder punches score more points which is so unlike amateur boxing where punches score the same no matter the force they carry.

"The problem is, a computerized count of punches thrown throughout the fight clearly showed that De La Hoya outpunched Mosley in both power shots and non-power shots departments by considerable margins. The judges also revealed a clear bias for Mosley when they gave him the 12th round when it was De La Hoya who took great risk by going after Mosley and succeeded in delivering the more telling blows, including the one that sent Mosley's mouthpiece flying.

"In the first fight between the two, it was De La Hoya who delivered the more powerful punches and Mosley was in fact on the verge of knockout at some point . . . Mosley was picked the winner because the judges said he connected with more punches, notwithstanding the power shots delivered by De La Hoya. How come in the second fight, when it was De La Hoya who had more punches thrown, the judges suddenly made a complete turnaround and picked Mosley the winner because, according to them, the power shots are the ones that really mattered? With this kind of logic from such brilliant and illustrious judges, there was simply no way De La Hoya can win against Mosley, no matter what he does. Moral of the story: Boxing is a sport we should all ignore because it's a waste of time."

(Mr. Abillar also took this reporter to task for scoring the 12th round even, adding that "it's a no-no in professional boxing because fight judges are not supposed to be indecisive, but rather must choose a winner in every round." He added that an even score has no place in pro boxing. A little explanation: I had worked a few international fights as a ringside judge and never had I scored a round even. If I did so in the final round of the Mosley-De La Hoya bout, it was purely out of personal whim, a fact that I did not hide from the reading public. Sorry for the displeasure it had caused such an astute gentleman as Mr. Abillar.)

***

So why did comments contradictory to my judgment on the Mosley-De La Hoya fight see print here?

No, your reporter here did not wake up with a sudden attack of generosity.

He simply subscribes to the belief that, this being a free boxing republic, both sides should be heard, no matter who gets hurt.

To close the debate, here's Tim Dahlberg of the Associated Press, the respected agency that scored the disputed fight 116-113 for Mosley:

"Just what good is De La Hoya doing for boxing by insinuating the judges were corrupt, blind or merely incompetent? Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission, went outside Nevada to look for top judges. Anek Homongkam from Thailand and Stanley Christodoulou of England are both respected judges; Duane Ford, the third judge, has worked some 140 title fights with distinction. All three saw the fight the same way almost round for round. Mosley had a slight—very slight edge—but it was enough to win.

"Sure, ringside punching statistics showed De La Hoya with a clear edge in punches landed. But what do those statistics mean and how accurate are they? When De La Hoya and Mosley fought in frenzied flurries, it would be impossible for anyone to tally what scored and what didn't . . . Yes, De La Hoya was disappointed, and bitterly so. He thought he won the fight, and you'll never convince him otherwise. But De La Hoya, claiming there was something nefarious going on, was a pathetic one indeed for such a proud warrior. 'You're a sore loser,' someone yelled. Perhaps De La Hoya has forgotten getting the benefit of an 11-10 decision over Hong Song Kik of South Korea, in the semifinals of the 1992 Olympics that allowed him to go on and win the gold medal that helped make him rich and famous. Maybe he can't remember the decision in a fight against Pernell Whitaker that many thought Whitaker won. De La Hoya certainly wasn't calling for any investigations then."

In closing, Dahlberg adds: "Now, De La Hoya says he's doing this not because he's a sore loser, he says he's doing this for the sport of boxing. Do something else, Oscar. Give this up before it gets even sillier than it already is. Otherwise, the Golden Boy may start looking more like the Golden Baby."

That's all. Hope everybody's happy.

Bata, Amang stopped

REYES

FILIPINOS Efren "Bata" Reyes and Jose "Amang" Parica lost their respective matches on Saturday in the 28th Annual US Open at the Chesapeake Convention Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The 49-year-old Reyes lost his Saturday match against Jeremy Jones,11-8, while La Puente, California-based Parica bowed to Keith "The Earthquake" Mc Cready, 11-7.

Meanwhile, Dutchman Niels "Terminator" Feijen edged former US Open champion Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer of the United States, 11-10.

Archer had earlier beaten defending champion Ralf "Kaiser" Souquet of Germany, 11-9. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Paragua gives away crown

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua lost his final round match with Spanish IM Victoriano Jimenez on Saturday to finish fourth in the Open International De Ajedrez Parla in Madrid, Spain.

Needing only a draw to win the tournament, Paragua gave away a slight edge in the middle game to absorb his first loss in the nine-round Swiss system event that lured 12 grandmasters.

The championship went to Yugoslavian IM Slobodan Kovacevic, who won in a tiebreaker over Jimenez and Russian grandmaster Oleg Korneev. The trio finished on top of the 140-strong field with identical 7.5 points.

Paragua scored 7 points, the same tally of Cuban IM Yuri Gonzales, but finished fourth via the tiebreak. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

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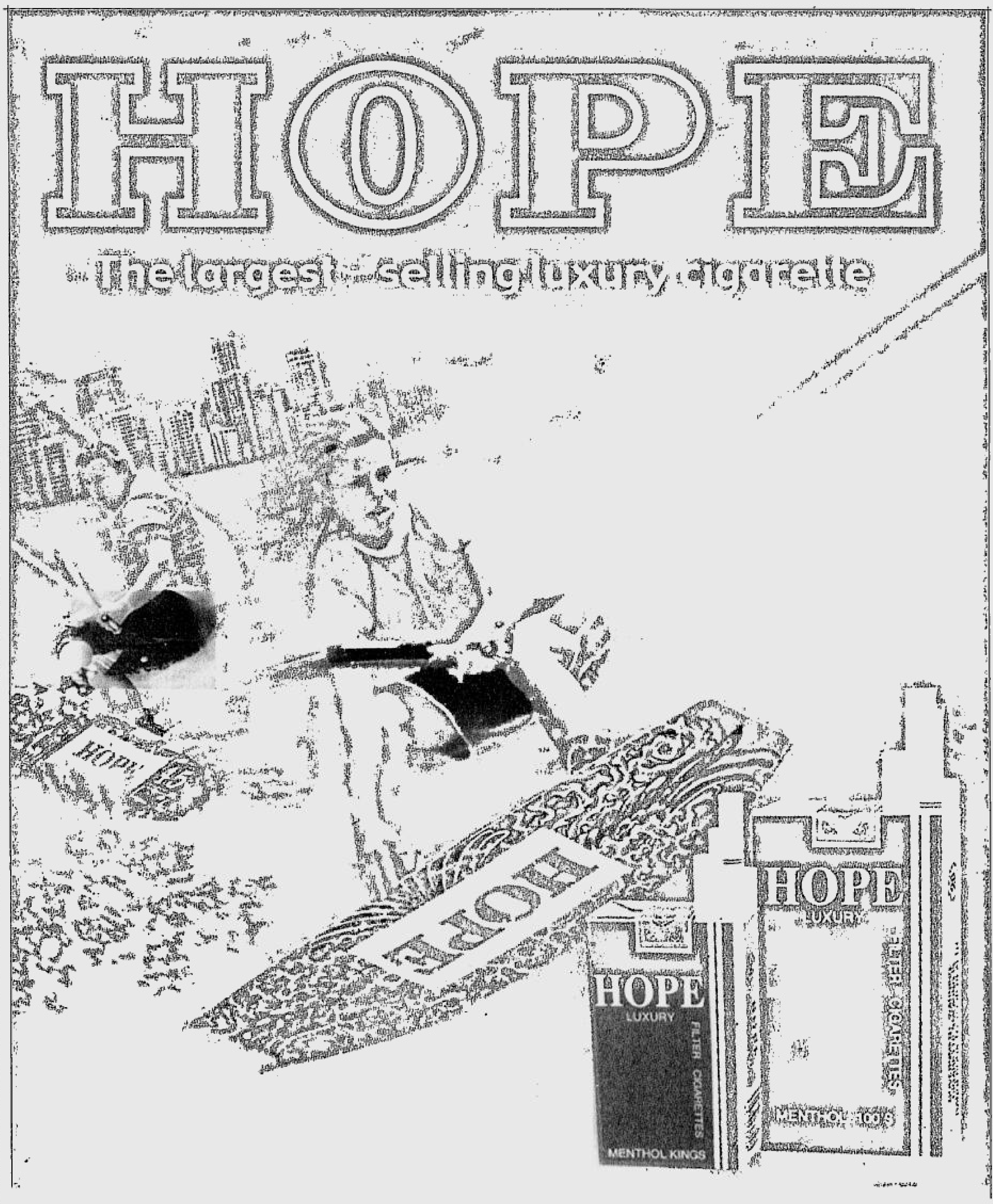

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Arcilla, Victorino dispute crown

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Top seed Johnny Arcilla stamped his class over fourth seed Rolando Ruel Jr., 6-3, 6-1, yesterday to reach the final of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit at the Xavier Sports and Country Club here.

Arcilla, eyeing a seventh straight title this year, will dispute the crown with third seed Joseph Victorino, who rallied past No.2 Adelo Abadia, 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, in the other semifinal.

"Mataas ang morale *ko dahil naka-anim na titulo na ako* this year," said Arcilla, who also won the first two legs of this circuit sponsored by Accel Sports, Key Printing, Le Soleil de Boracay, Oceanic 1911, All Care Insurance, Fiesta Brands, O2 Plus and Dunlop Slazenger.

This is the fourth time that Arcilla and Victorino will meet in the finals. They battled each other for the title in Bohol, Mandaue and the GMA President's Cup.

Arcilla lost to Victórino in the semifinals of the Philta Open last March, and Victorino won in Davao City last week.

Meanwhile, top seeds Arcilla and Michael Mora III outclassed the No.2 pair of Victorino and Pop Sabandon, 6-3, 6-1, to advance to the doubles finals against fourth seeds Ruel and Alexander Lazaro, who ousted second seeds Jaime Solon and Junjun Toledo, 6-4, 6-3.

QUE

Rosales-Que spu misses World Cu

GERALD Rosales and Angelo Que lost their bid for a World Cup trip after another sputtering round pulled them down to seventh place at the close of the Nations Cup yesterday won in breakaway fashion by Myanmar, at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club in Singapore.

Rosales and Que four-putted the par-3 17th and then stumbled with another three-putt miscue on the final hole for a three-over-par 75 in the final round. They teed off on the 17th still tied for the fourth and last slot but yielded to the severe pressure.

Had they closed with two pars, the Filipinos, who combined for 68s in the first and third rounds, could have forged a playoff for the last berth.

The duo's final round struggle duplicated their miserable 76 in alternate shot in the second round Friday.

Myanmar's Kyi Hla Han and Aung Win took the top spot with their 73-277, China (Liang Wen-chong and Zheng Wen-gen) survived a 76 to tie for the second and third berths with India (71) at 282 and Hong Kong carded a 70 to nail the last ticket.

Thailand (75) and Sri shared fifth place at 285.

The top four teams adva $4 million World Cup slated ber in Kiawah Island, North

India, represented by G and Digvijay Singh, made World Cup for the first time s

"We knew we had a go and I was keen to win the coming close twice (in 1999 Winning by five was the ic cake," said the 42-year-old will play in his fourth World

Meanwhile, Frankie Mi

NOTICE TO MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC

WATER TARIFF FOR THE EAST ZONE

Effective fifteen (15) days from publication in newspapers of general circulation pursuant to Section 12 of the MWSS Charter (RA 6234), Manila Water Company, Inc will carry out a Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) of 4 09% of basic charge as approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No 03-030-CA, dated 10 September 2003, as confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No 293-2003 dated 19 September 2003 The FCDA will be computed quarterly depending on the fluctuations of the exchange rate

Manila Water Company, the East Zone concessionaire, covers the following areas:
Manila (San Andres and Sta Ana only), Quezon City (east of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional and Mindanao Ave., Districts of Tandang Sora, Pasong Tamo and Matandang Balara), Makati City (east of South Super Highway), Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros and Taguig, all in Metro Manila; and Rizal Province
The new schedule of water tariff is as follows

Manila Water

MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC.
WATER TARIFF FOR THE EAST ZONE

1. WATER CHARGE (peso per cubic meter)

		A. BASIC	B. CERA	C. FCDA 4.09% of Basic	TOTAL
RESIDENTIAL					
First	10 cu.m.	33.81 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.	1.38 /Conn.	45.19 /Conn.
Next	10 cu.m.	4.13 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.17 /Cu.m.	5.30 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	7.82 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.32 /Cu.m.	9.14 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	10.30 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.42 /Cu.m.	11.72 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	12.04 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.49 /Cu.m.	13.53 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	12.60 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.52 /Cu.m.	14.12 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	13.17 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.54 /Cu.m.	14.71 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	13.73 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.56 /Cu.m.	15.29 /Cu.m.
Over	200 cu.m.	14.30 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.58 /Cu.m.	15.88 /Cu.m.
SEMI-BUSINESS					
First	10 cu.m.	56.76 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.	2.32 /Conn.	69.08 /Conn.
Next	10 cu.m.	6.91 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.28 /Cu.m.	8.19 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	8.52 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.35 /Cu.m.	9.87 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	10.82 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.44 /Cu.m.	12.26 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	12.60 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.52 /Cu.m.	14.12 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	13.17 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.54 /Cu.m.	14.71 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	13.73 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.56 /Cu.m.	15.29 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	14.30 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.58 /Cu.m.	15.88 /Cu.m.
Over	200 cu.m.	14.91 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.61 /Cu.m.	16.52 /Cu.m.
BUSINESS GROUP I					
First	10 cu.m.	153.67 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	6.29 /Conn.	169.95 /Conn.
Next	90 cu.m.	15.38 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.63 /Cu.m.	17.01 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	15.47 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.63 /Cu.m.	17.10 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	15.51 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.63 /Cu.m.	17.15 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	15.56 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.64 /Cu.m.	17.19 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	15.64 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.64 /Cu.m.	17.28 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	15.69 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.64 /Cu.m.	17.33 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	15.73 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.64 /Cu.m.	17.38 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	15.82 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.65 /Cu.m.	17.47 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	15.86 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.65 /Cu.m.	17.51 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	15.91 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.65 /Cu.m.	17.56 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	15.99 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.65 /Cu.m.	17.65 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	16.04 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.66 /Cu.m.	17.69 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	16.08 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.66 /Cu.m.	17.74 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	16.17 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.66 /Cu.m.	17.83 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	16.21 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.66 /Cu.m.	17.87 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.25 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.66 /Cu.m.	17.92 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.34 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.67 /Cu.m.	18.01 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.38 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.67 /Cu.m.	18.05 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.43 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.67 /Cu.m.	18.10 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.51 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	18.19 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.56 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	18.23 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.60 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	18.28 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.69 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	18.37 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.73 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	18.42 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.77 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.69 /Cu.m.	18.46 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.82 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.69 /Cu.m.	18.51 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.91 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.69 /Cu.m.	18.60 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.95 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.69 /Cu.m.	18.64 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	16.99 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.69 /Cu.m.	18.69 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	17.08 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	18.78 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	17.12 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	18.82 /Cu.m.
Over	10000 cu.m.	17.17 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	18.87 /Cu.m.
BUSINESS GROUP II					
First	10 cu.m.	166.27 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	6.80 /Conn.	183.07 /Conn.
Next	90 cu.m.	16.73 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	18.42 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	16.82 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.69 /Cu.m.	18.51 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	16.95 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.69 /Cu.m.	18.64 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	17.06 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	18.76 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	17.17 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	18.87 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	17.30 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.71 /Cu.m.	19.00 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	17.43 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.71 /Cu.m.	19.14 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	17.51 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.72 /Cu.m.	19.23 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	17.64 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.72 /Cu.m.	19.37 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	17.77 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.73 /Cu.m.	19.50 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	17.86 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.73 /Cu.m.	19.59 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	17.99 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.74 /Cu.m.	19.73 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	18.08 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.74 /Cu.m.	19.82 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	18.21 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.74 /Cu.m.	19.95 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	18.34 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.75 /Cu.m.	20.09 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	18.43 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.76 /Cu.m.	20.18 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	18.56 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.76 /Cu.m.	20.32 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	18.69 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.76 /Cu.m.	20.46 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	18.77 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.77 /Cu.m.	20.54 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	18.90 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.77 /Cu.m.	20.68 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	19.03 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.78 /Cu.m.	20.81 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	19.12 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.78 /Cu.m.	20.90 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	19.26 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.79 /Cu.m.	21.04 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	19.38 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.79 /Cu.m.	21.18 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	19.47 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.80 /Cu.m.	21.27 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	19.60 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.80 /Cu.m.	21.40 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	19.69 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.81 /Cu.m.	21.49 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	19.82 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.81 /Cu.m.	21.63 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	19.96 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.82 /Cu.m.	21.76 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	20.03 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.82 /Cu.m.	21.85 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	20.16 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.82 /Cu.m.	21.98 /Cu.m.
Over	10000 cu.m.	20.30 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.83 /Cu.m.	22.13 /Cu.m.

*Shall be subject to actual consumption of P1.00 per cubic meter if consumption is below ten (10) cubic meters

2. A. ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGE (EC)

10% of Water Charge

B. SEWERAGE CHARGE (SC)

50% of the Water Charge for all customers connected to the MWCI sewerlines

3. MAINTENANCE SERVICE CHARGE (MSC)

Meter Size	Amount (Peso/conn)	Meter Size	Amount (Peso/conn)	Meter Size	Amount (Peso/conn)
1/2" or 13mm	1.60	1 1/4" or 40mm	4.00	4" or 100mm	20.00
3/4" or 20mm	2.00	2" or 50mm	6.00	6" or 150mm	35.00
1" or 25mm	3.00	3" or 75mm	10.00	8" or 200mm	60.00

4. VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT) 10% for the Charges 1, 2 and 3

THE MONTHLY BILL IS THE SUM OF 1, 2, 3 AND 4.

Approved by:

EDUARDO C. SANTOS
Chief Regulator

ORLANDO C. HONDRADE
MWSS Administrator

ANTONINO T AQUINO
MWCI-President

For further inquiries you may visit the nearest Business Branch Office or call the Manila Water Company Hotline at 1627

Manila Water

Notice to its Customers

Background on the Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA)

- Effective October 7, 2003, there will be an increase of **2.83% in FCDA** from 1.26% to 4.09% of basic water charge. This was based on the foreign exchange rate of **P54.99** prevailing during the third quarter.
- FCDA is a tariff mechanism used by utility companies that is adjusted upwards to recover losses if the Peso depreciates and adjusted downwards if the Peso appreciates against the US dollar.
- Manila Water has to continue paying for the foreign exchange-denominated Concession Fees to the MWSS, as well as loans required for its service expansion and improvement.

Minimal impact to customers

- Based on MWSS' socialized tariff structure, 70% of our customers will be paying an additional **P0.18 per day or P5.23 per month.** The increase will be from **P226 to P231** for residential customers consuming an average of 30 cubic meters a month.

Continuing commitment to invest more to improve service

- Over the past 5 years, Manila Water has provided water service to more than 1 million people, more than half a million of whom belong to the low income bracket.
- In the next 5 years, Manila Water will provide water to an additional one million population, half of whom also belong to the low income population.
- Manila Water will invest more than P15 billion in the next 5 years to expand and improve service.

For further inquiries please call the Manila Water Company Hotline at 1627

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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ced to the n Novem- rolina. urav Ghei it to the nce 1997. d cushion ophy. after nd 2002). ng on the Han, who up. za shot a 73, a day after plunging from top to bottom, and wound up sharing 42nd in the ANA Open at the Sapporo Golf Club in Hokkaido, Japan.

Miñoza, whose dismal 79 on Saturday saw him falling from fourth to 42nd, never got to improve his position. But his worst showing in his last five events still netted him 380,000 yen (about P180,000).

Yeh Wei Tze continued the trend of first-time winners when he shot a 72-277 to win for the first time in Japan, beating by one stroke Tsuyoshi Yoneyama and Masashi Ozaki. *With a report from Jong Arcano*

KYI Hla Han (left) and Aung Win of Myanmar raise the Nations Cup trophy. AFP

ILO MARATHON

ontecillo, evillano top ebu qualifying

U CITY—Two-time champion Bowen Montecillo, rning to the scene of his past triumphs, claimed his title in four years in the Cebu City elimination of the 27th Milo Marathon.

ontecillo, a 20-year-old University of San Jose letos student who also won this event in 1999 and 1, towed the record field of close to 11,000 run- and breasted the tape unchallenged.

efending champion Christy Sevilleno led from the to rule the women's division.

was a fitting end to the 13-leg regional elimina- series of the national marathon. Only Cagayan ro's 9,200-strong field beat the entry list in the u race that also featured the shorter 5K and 3K s.

lready the winner of this year's Tri City 25K and Don Sergio Osmeña 20K here, Montecillo led the top three qualifiers to the grand finals in Metro ila on Oct. 19. Some 200 of the country's best -distance runners from Luzon, Visayas and Min- o have qualified to the national finals.

oong una, kumpiyansa ako na manalo, tapos nani- ang katawan ko sa last 5K. *Mabuti na lang kuha ako ng* second wind *sa* last two kilometers," Montecillo, who won P10,000 for his effort.

e will run his first full marathon in the national fi- which will be held in partnership with Bayview Hotel, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Powerbar, and the artment of Tourism.

ogelio Reli, 23, a native of Leyte but presently as- ed with a Philippine Army unit in Cebu, settled for nd place. He failed to duplicate his achievement of ning the Tacloban and Cebu City races back-to- last year.

rso Pamaybay, a 32-year-old athletics coach and year's runner-up, wound up third and made it last ng Cebu's representatives to the national finals.

villeno, a 20-year-old student from the University ebu, finished ahead of University of the Visayas er Sharon Vega, last year's seventh placer, to win 10,000 winner's purse.

long with former champion Leszl Gitarvelas, Sevil- and Vega will represent Cebu City to the finals.

MDA chair Bayani Fernando fired the starting gun e race that started and finished at the Ayala Busi- Park. The event was organized by Joe Deresas.

ow all our efforts will be geared towards the na- l Milo Marathon finals," said an elated Pat Goc- Milo Sports Executive.

Hot Choi seizes lead in German Masters

COLOGNE, Germany—South Korea's KJ Choi shot a third round 64 to shoot to the top of the leaderboard after the third round of the EPGA German Masters on Saturday.

Choi led by a shot from Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez and by two from both Carlos Rodiles, also of Spain, and overnight leader Ian Poulter of England.

Choi was making his European Tour debut this week and enlisted the help of experienced caddie Andy Prodger—who has been forced to pull the clubs on a trolley due to a bad back—and feels at home on the Jack Nicklaus-designed course.

"Andy has been very helpful because he has helped me play my game and pinpoint exactly where and where not to land the ball," said the 33-year-old who won twice on the US Tour last year.

"I could rely on the fact that he had 25 years of experience and emotionally that was the biggest factor.

"The overall environment is different but the course is similar to where I won my first tournament, the Honda Classic at English Turn, especially coming into the final holes.

"It was designed by Jack Nicklaus so in that respect I feel comfortable with it." Meanwhile, Poulter blasted the state of the bunkers at Gut Larchenhof course.

Poulter dropped his first three shots of the week, two of them after finding sand, in a third-round 69 in Cologne. *AFP*

CHOI watches his tee shot on No. 2 AP

Pagunsan, Tanpinco head Samsung amateur roster

RIDING high on his recent runaway win in the Riviera Open, Juvic Pagunsan returns to Bacolod to banner the cast in the championship division of the Samsung Amateur Tour and Putting Challenge at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club on Sept. 27-28.

Pagunsan will be challenged by some of his caddie friends at the course, also known as Marapara. But based on his recent games, Pagunsan will be very hard to beat.

He routed the field in the Riviera Amateur by seven shots, a week after helping the Philippines achieve a fifth place finish in the Nomura Cup.

The last two legs of the series had been disputed via playoffs, with Marc Lopez winning in Davao and Tristan Tabanas prevailing in Cagayan de Oro.

Players who could give Pagunsan a run for his money are Canlubang teammates JR Tanpinco and Ronnie Torrecampo.

Co-sponsoring the second season of the Samsung Tour are Mario's Restaurant, Wilson, Gatorade, Tokyo Tokyo, Microtel, Custom Clubmakers and Dunlop Golf with radio stations Killer Bee, Citylite 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite as official media partners.

Boy Blue Ocampo, of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group, said he expects the field in Bacolod to top the 120-player limit.

For inquiries, call the host club in Bacolod or the PSMG at 635-0010 or 631-5768.

SPORTSWATCH

Hagedorn opens sepak takraw tourney

PUERTO Princesa—Action goes full blast in the 2003 National Open Men's and Women's Sepak Takraw Championships and 21-Below Nationals today with some 200 athletes from 46 teams vying for the major titles. Four matches were actually held yesterday following a colorful ceremony presided over by Mayor Edward Hagedorn yesterday. In his opening remarks, Hagedorn stressed the need to develop sports at the local level. "Again, I would like to reiterate our appreciation to the people behind sepak takraw in strongly considering Puerto Princesa as a venue for their national open and 21-under tournament," he said. Puerto Princesa, under Hagedorn, recently hosted the third edition of the Batang Pinoy games, the BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games, the national boxing open and the national skateboard championships. Gen. Mario Tanchanco and Col. Romarico Calderon, president and secretary general, respectively, of the organizing Philippine Amateur Sepak Takraw Association (Pasta) joined Hagedorn as the main guests in yesterday's ceremonies at the tournament venue, the Dr. Hilgenio Mendoza Park in the city.

San Beda netters capture boys' crown

SAN Beda College beat La Salle-Greenhills, 2-0, to capture the high school boys' title yesterday in the 2003 Milo All-Students Tennis Championships at the Philam Homes claycourts. Marvin Serito whipped Michael Amorcio, 6-3, 6-3, before his Bedan roommates Nestor Celestino Jr. and Jopy Mamawal teamed up to outclass Raymond Villarete and Ian Avila, 6-1, 7-5, for the San Beda victory which included Bobby Chio. In the distaff side, Colegio San Agustin blanked Assumption, 3-0, to win the high school girls' crown of the championships organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids. In the men's division, La Salle-Taft upset reigning UAAP titlist Santo Tomas, 2-1, to forge a showdown with defending champion Polytechnic University of the Philippines for the title.

Agra, Barte shine in Future netfest

JESSICA Agra captured two titles while Ralph Kevin Barte won the boys' 16-under title yesterday in the Future Foundation Age-Group Tennis Cup at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Agra, seeded No.2 in the girls' 14-under division, outlasted No.1 Trudy Amoranto, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4. In the 16-under class where she is top seed, Agra stamped her class over Amoranto, 6-3, 6-2. The second-ranked Barte captured the title after top seed Christian Canlas quit due to fatigue, 7-5 (retired). Top-ranked Pablo Olivarez II took the boys' 14-under over No.2 Russell Arcilia Jr., 6-2, 6-7 (4), 3-3 (retired) while No.2 Akio Sy won the 12-under title over No. 3 Joseph Baldonado, 6-1, 7-6, in this event supported by TMS Shipping and Dunlop balls. In other matches, fourth seed Michelle Pang beat No.2 Kristel Samala, 6-1, 6-4, for the girls' 18-under. No. 1 Sarah Jane Lim won the 12-under title over No. 4 Joan Opulencia, 6-4, 6-3, and no. 1 Bernardine Siso nailed the unisex 10-under crown at the expense of No. 3 Alberto Villamor, 6-2, 6-2.

Doves, Jaguars begin title duel

THE St. Francis of Assisi Doves and the Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA) Jaguars clash in the first game of their best-of-three championship series for the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball crown today at the Rizal Coliseum. The game starts at 1:30 p.m. The Doves, who beat the University of the East Warriors to win the National Students championships in Naga City early this year, advanced to the finals with the better record. They posted a 12-game sweep of the elimination round before beating La Salle-Dasmariñas, 96-84, in the semifinals. The Jaguars, who enjoyed a twice-to-beat edge against the Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals in the Final Four, made the title series the hard way. They lost their first encounter to the Generals, 78-80, but bounced back in the second game, 72-59. The Doves, are expected to lean on big men Ranidel de Ocampo and Ervin Sotto, who are both in their final year with the school, to carry them to another title. The Jaguars will be banking on Romer Diaz and Al Federico to get PSBA's offense going.

Alabang cyclists rule Manly races

CYCLISTS from Ayala Alabang topped the recent Manly Saddle Skins Invitational Races at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. Alfie Reyes and Michael Mariano, both members of the Ayala Alabang Cycling Club, won the first and second races, respectively, besting more than 200 competitors in the Open/Elite category. Another Ayala Alabang rider, Joel Gironella, won in the second race for the Executive B class, while teener Jon Paul Morales topped the Juniors class. Sunil Sitlanim, president of Manly Sportswear Manufacturing Inc., makers of high-end sports and rehabilitation gear, was elated at the big turnout in the two Sunday races, which were also supported by Inter-Sports Group, Lipovitan, Nokina Audio and Visual, Cycle Zone, Joven The Total Bike Shop, Power Bikes, Anatomic Cycling Wear and K91.5FM. "This is our way of thanking cyclists for using our Saddle Skins," he said.

HOOP CAMP
FORMER PBA standout Mike Mustre provides tips on ball handling to youngsters in the SMC Basketball Goodwill Circuit's Skill Builders Hoop Camp. For aspiring bench tacticians, the San Miguel Circuit, headed by former Purefoods coach Eric Altamirano, conducts clinics, wherein free instruction handouts are given away as well.

uge turnout marks golf ecca's Inaugural Weekend

T-HUNDRED golfers on the four es, a hundred bowlers burning the , kids and adults splashing on the re- type pool and so many more using facilities for billiards, tennis, bad- on and table tennis.

he Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club e its statement of "size is might" with varied activities in yesterday's Inau- l Weekend to mark the completion of lub's 72-hole golf complex.

gle Ridge's huge workforce had its s full attending to the revelry in three houses where the non-golf action was .

bout 5,000 members and their fami- s well as guests took part in the fun- day that was capped by a concert of po Hiking Society and a fireworks ay.

Ve wanted to make sure that an Eagle e member will have a choice of drop in every visit, the bag drop for his round and the family drop at the s clubhouse where all the necessary nities for fun and enjoyment will be able," said Tommy Alcantara, chair he Eagle Ridge Golf and Country .

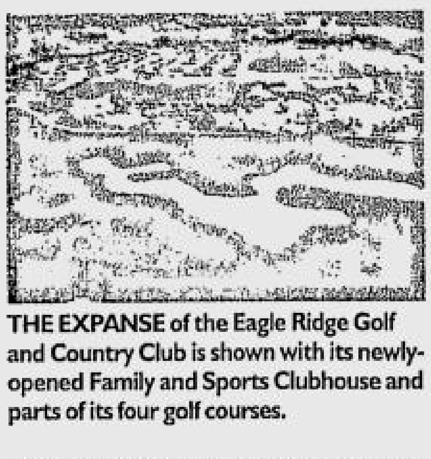
lcantara is also the chair of the Alsons p which formed a joint venture part- hip with the Sta. Lucia Realty, headed president Exequiel Robles, to build ountry's most ambitious golf and res- ial development project.

he winners of the Inaugural Weekend events sponsored by Callaway, Mizuno, Titleist, Cobra, Lone Star Lite, Winex, Tronex, Head Penn, Swans, Samsung and Omega:

Forex Four Golf member-guest: Honorio Edralin-Claro Maranan (Faldo), Felix Dennis Cortez-Fred Baligasa (Dye), Manuel Lim-Wilfredo Villarosa (Norman), William Hopping Gan-Dennis Chua and Edith Apuya-Tess Staub (Aoki).

Tennis: Gerard Ngo (boys' singles), Annie dela Peña (girls' singles), Luisito Clores (men's singles) and Rogelio Hermano-Liza Babia (mixed doubles).

Bowling: TBAC-Teland Cove (S. Montejo, L. Ramirez, N. Laresma, M. Miranda, B. Papa, T. Montejo, C. Laresma); Billiards: Jonathan Adriano; Badminton: Leann Shaer (girls' singles) and Jojo Reyes-Alisson Chan (men's doubles).



THE EXPANSE of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club is shown with its newly-opened Family and Sports Clubhouse and parts of its four golf courses.

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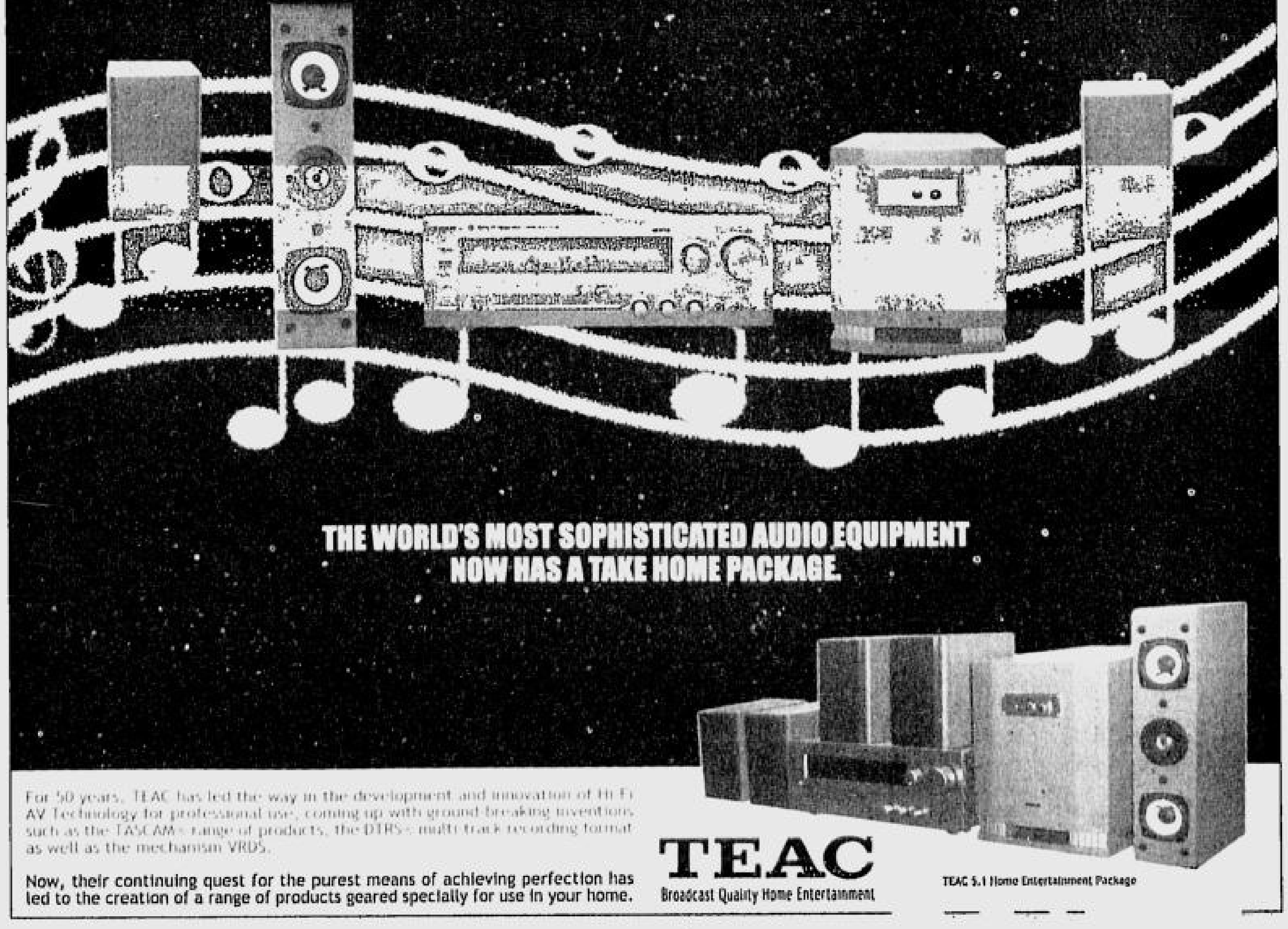
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DAVIS CUP SURPRISE

Obscure twins give US 2-1 lead

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia—For a day, the stars of the American Davis Cup team were ordinarily obscure doubles players—25-year-old twins Mike and Bob Bryan.

In their Davis Cup debut Saturday, the identical California twins took their match in straight sets, defeating Karol Beck and Dominik Hrbaty, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (5), to give the Americans a 2-1 lead over Slovakia in the Davis Cup best-of-five playoff.

"I feel a tremendous sense of relief that these two guys are on our team now," captain Patrick McEnroe said of the twins. "They are our doubles team in my mind no matter what happened today."

A victory in Sunday's first singles by US Open champion Andy Roddick against Slovak No. 1 Karol Kucera (Roddick is 2-0 vs. Kucera) would keep the United States in the top 16 of Davis Cup. A loss to Slovakia would relegate the Americans to the second tier for the first time in 15 years.

Mardy Fish would go against Hrbaty in the second singles on clay. The Americans are 60-9 when they lead 2-1 going into the final day.

The Bryans are not your ordinary doubles team.

22nd tandem

They are the 22nd tandem the United States has tried since 1992. But don't look for many changes in the next few years.

The two are the world's No. 1-ranked team and winners on clay of this year's French Open. Mike is two minutes younger, a right-hander and 6-foot-3. Bob is a left-hander and slightly taller at 6-foot-4 (1.93).

They look like mirror images on the court and seldom miss the other's cues.

By comparison, the Slovak team rarely plays together. Hrbaty was substituted for by Michal Mertinak just an hour before the match.

"We knew they hadn't played much together," Mike said. "We rarely let a ball go between us, and that's our advantage. We play together every week, every day."

Tiebreaker

The Bryans dominated the match, although the Slovaks had eight break points—one was a set point—and didn't convert any. They also fended off four match points before the Americans prevailed in the tiebreaker.

"It wasn't going to come easy in our first Davis Cup match," Bob said. "I knew it was going to be tough playing overseas . . . I felt pretty good getting up 6-1, but then we had to pull it out."

The Bryans also made history.

They are the first set of siblings to represent the United States since George and Robert Wrenn did it in 1903. The only others were John and Patrick McEnroe. They were on the 1983 team together, but Patrick was a practice player and did not compete.

The Wrenn brothers also teamed in doubles 100 years ago.

Roddick was upset in singles on Friday by Hrbaty—his third straight loss in Davis Cup, all on clay—but can atone for the loss on Sunday. Kucera is expected to play, although captain Miloslav Mecir suggested he might use Beck.

The loss snapped Roddick's 19-match winning streak, all on hard courts and all in North America.

"I don't think I'll have to say much to Andy tomorrow," McEnroe said. *AP*

TWIN brothers Mike (left) and Bob Bryan celebrate their victory over Slovak tandem Dominik Hrbaty and Karol Beck. The Bryans triumphed, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (5). AFP

Hewitt puts Australia in final

MELBOURNE, Australia—Lleyton Hewitt used the memory of a stirring Davis Cup comeback by countryman Pat Cash 17 years ago to pull back from a certain loss to Wimbledon champion Roger Federer on Sunday and put Australia into this year's final.

"It is a dream come true," Hewitt said Sunday after his 5-7, 2-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5, 6-1 win over Federer that gave Australia a winning 3-1 semifinal margin and advanced it to the Nov. 28-30 final against either Spain or Argentina at Melbourne.

A fifth match—the second reverse singles match Sunday—between Todd Woodbridge and Michel Kratochvil was called off after Kratochvil won the first set, 6-4, and Woodbridge retired, making the final margin 3-2 Australia.

Hewitt trailed 5-3 in the third set before breaking Federer's serve and fighting back in the 3-hour, 31-minute opening reverse singles match at Rod Laver Arena.

Hewitt said the win overshadowed his two previous Grand Slam wins—the 2002 Wimbledon and 2001 US Open titles.

Hewitt said he has watched the video of Cash's 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 win over Sweden's Mikael Pernfors to clinch the Davis Cup for Australia at Melbourne in 1986 "countless" times.

In Bangkok, the Czech Republic defeated Thailand in their Davis Cup World Group relegation match Sunday.

Jiri Novak gave the Czechs a winning 3-1 lead in the first of the reverse singles when he defeated Paradorn Srichaphan 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

The Czech Republic remains in the 16-strong World Group and Thailand is relegated to the Asia/Oceania zone. *AP,AFP*

ARNOLD AFP

Argentines win doubles, stay alive

MALAGA, Spain—Shaking off two demoralizing defeats the day before, Argentina beat Spain in Davis Cup doubles Saturday to extend the semifinal round and the South Americans' dreams one more day.

The makeshift team of Lucas Arnold and Agustin Calleri beat veterans Albert Costa and Alex Corretja, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2, in an emotional match that lasted nearly four hours under a hot Mediterranean sun.

"We've practiced," Calleri said, but "the first time we've played (a match) together was this one."

The Argentines came without injured stars Guillermo Coria, world No. 5, and David Nalbandian, No. 9 and Arnold's partner in Argentina's 5-0 quarterfinal win over defending Davis Cup champion Russia.

Spain now leads 2-1 and will advance to the finals with a win Sunday by either world No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero, scheduled to play Mariano Zabaleta, or world No. 6 Carlos Moya against Gaston Gaudio. That lineup could change because Zabaleta was hobbled by leg cramps in his loss to Moya on Friday.

"We'll talk with the players and make a decision," Argentine coach Gustavo Luza said. But he said he won't disclose it until an hour before Sunday's first match, as permitted by the rules.

The semifinal winner advances to play Switzerland or Australia. That other semifinal tie is being played this weekend at Melbourne. Australia won doubles Saturday and led 2-1.

Spain aims to return to the finals for a fourth time overall, and the second time in the past four years. In 2000, it beat Australia at Barcelona.

This year's team is even stronger, as evidenced by a record of 12 matches won to only one lost—Saturday's doubles—this Davis Cup season. The four players have won a combined 53 ATP titles. *AP*

Barry Bonds closes in on his grandpa

LOS ANGELES—Barry Bonds might have only six more games this season to match the career home run total of his godfather, Willie Mays. The way Bonds is hitting, that could be plenty.

Finishing a personally difficult year with a flourish, Bonds has homered four times in the last six games to move within three of Mays' 660, third on the career list behind Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth.

Bonds' solo shot in San Francisco's 6-4 victory over Los Angeles on Friday night also tied him with Texas' Alex Rodriguez for the major league lead with 44.

The Giants have already clinched the NL West title, and manager Felipe Alou wants Bonds to get some rest before the playoffs.

With nine games remaining, Alou said, "He'll play at least six more games."

Bonds was expected to be in the lineup Saturday night when the Giants faced the Dodgers again.

Bonds, 39, has said he's content to wait until next season to catch Mays.

Asked about the chase after he hit No. 657, Bonds said, "I don't discuss those things."

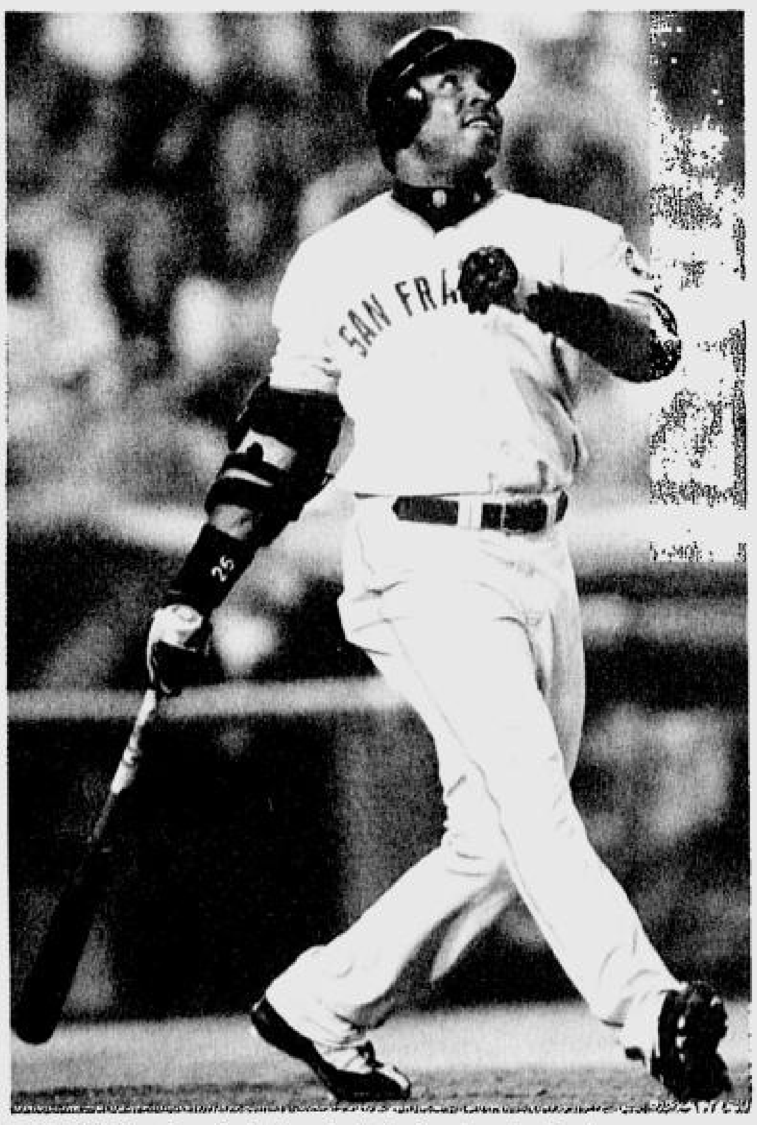
Although he obviously has had great difficulty coping with the death of his father, Bobby, less than a month ago, the Giants' slugger seems completely focused when he puts on his uniform.

Bonds has played in just 123 games to Rodriguez's 153. Bonds, who is hitting .342, has walked 145 times, 62 more than the Rangers' star.

Alou noted that walking Bonds works in the Giants' favor, too. He has scored 36 of his 107 runs this year after being walked.

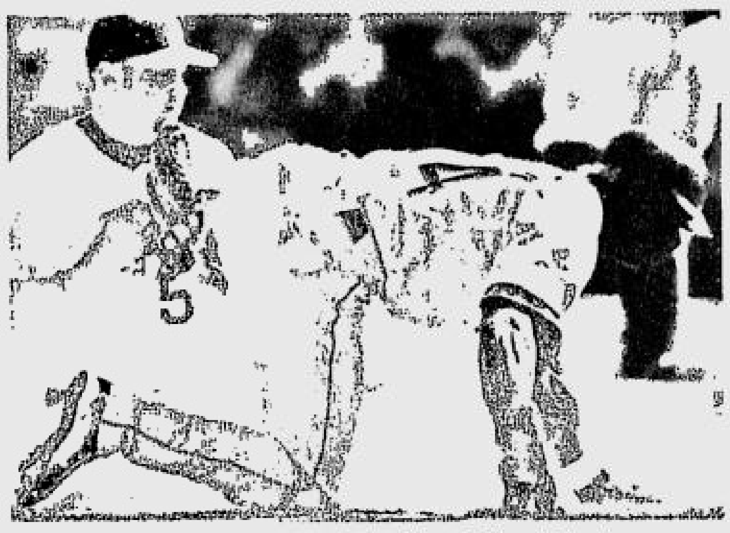
Walking or hitting, Bonds was his usual ominous presence in Friday night's win over Kevin Brown and the Dodgers, finishing with a homer, a double, an RBI and two runs despite walking twice.

Brown walked him intentionally in the first inning, loading the bases. Bonds wound up on third, and the Giants scored their first two runs. *AP*



BONDS hits a long fly ball against the Los Angeles Dodgers. AFP

Yankees gain playoff seat



PITCHER Justin Duchscherer (left) of the Oakland A's tries to tag out Mike Cameron of the Seattle Mariners. AFP

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida—Andy Pettitte became a 20-game winner for the second time, and New York clinched its ninth straight playoff berth after beating the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, 7-1, on Saturday.

The AL East leaders won for the 12th time in 14 games to climb a season-high 38 games over .500, move closer to their sixth consecutive division title and earn at least a wild-card spot in the postseason.

Pettitte (20-8), who has won 15 of 17 decisions since June 14, allowed eight hits, struck out nine and walked one in seven innings to improve to 11-1 lifetime against the Devil Rays.

Jorge Sosa (5-12) allowed six hits, struck out two and walked two in 5 1-3 innings.

In Cleveland, the Cleveland Indians scored 12 runs in their final two at-bats and tightened the AL wild-card race with a 13-4 win over the stunned Boston Red Sox.

Casey Blake's two-run double triggered a seven-run rally in the seventh inning when Cleveland chased Derek Lowe (16-7), who dominated the Indians for six.

Josh Bard hit a leadoff homer off Lowe in the seventh and capped the unexpected inning with a two-run single. The Indians added five more runs in the eighth, turning it into a blowout.

Boston's loss allowed Seattle to move 1 1/2 games behind the Red Sox for the wild card with eight games remaining. The Mariners beat Oakland, 9-3, Saturday.

Dave Lee (1-0), acquired by Cleveland in a trade earlier this month with Los Angeles, got his first AL win and first in the majors since Sept. 1, 2001, with San Diego.

In Baltimore, Luis Matos hit a solo homer and later scored the winning run on Jay Gibbons' bloop single in the eighth as Baltimore edged Toronto, 2-1. *AP*

Oregon shocks 3rd-ranked Michigan

EUGENE, Oregon—Chris Perry, the nation's leading rusher going into the game, ran for just 26 yards as No. 22 Oregon upset No. 3 Michigan, 31-27, on Saturday in front of the largest crowd ever at Autzen Stadium.

Jason Fife, half of Oregon's quarterback tandem with Kellen Clemens, ran for one touchdown, tailback Terrence Whitehead rushed for another, and the Ducks (4-0) were able to take advantage of some key Michigan (3-1) errors before 59,023 fans.

Michigan (3-1), making its first road trip of the season, narrowed it with John Navarre's 36-yard TD pass to Steve Breaston with 2:18 left, but couldn't get any closer.

In Norman, Oklahoma, Antonio Perkins brought back three punts for touchdowns and finished with 277 yards on seven returns to break two NCAA records as Oklahoma routed UCLA 59-24.

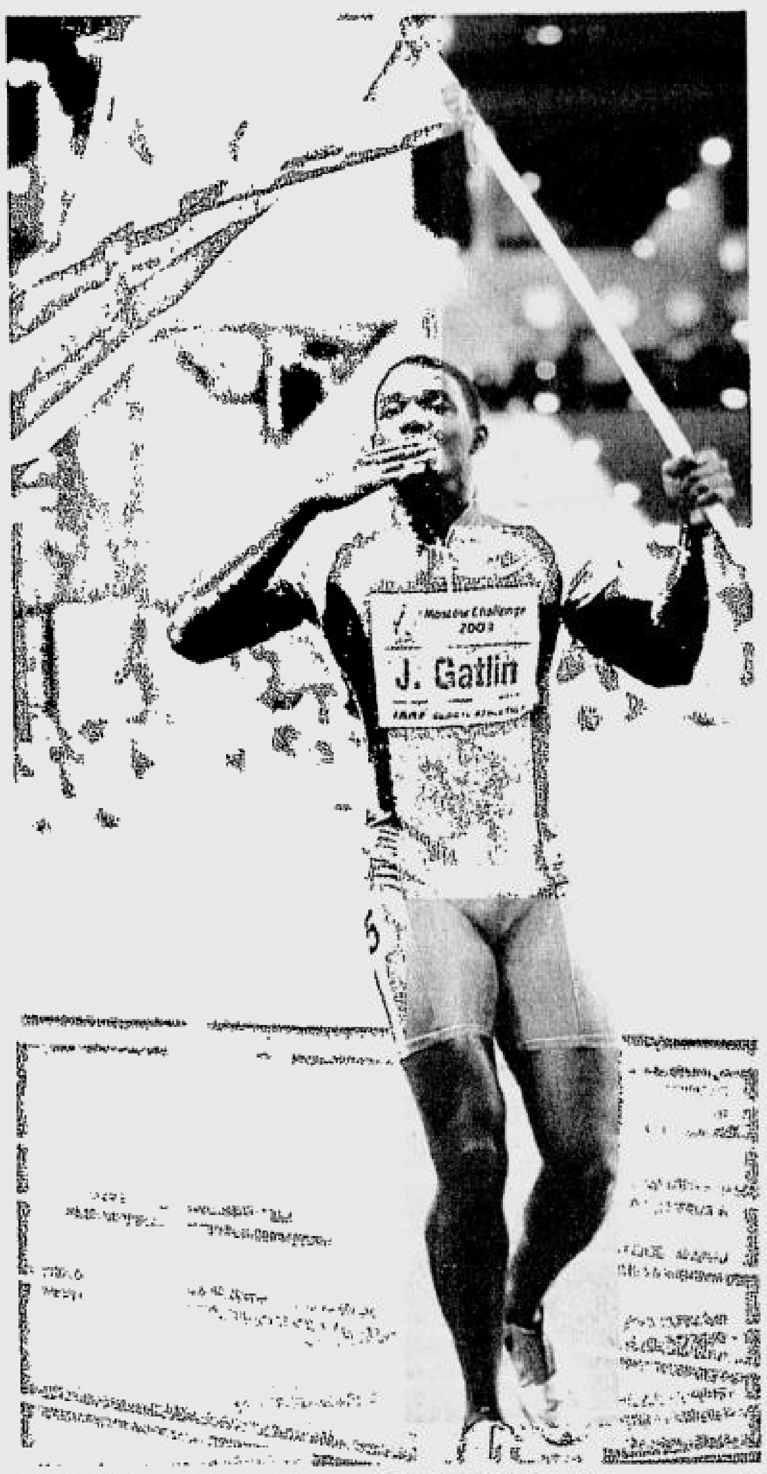
Perkins, who came into the game with only 80 yards on 13 punt returns, scored on returns of 74, 84 and 65 yards to become the first Division I-A player to return three punts for TDs in a game.

Perkins also broke the record of 219 yards on punt returns set by BYU's Golden Richards against North Texas in 1971.

In Columbus, Ohio, Will Allen intercepted Josh Harris' pass on the final play as defending national champion Ohio State survived another scare to run its winning streak to 18 games with a 24-17 win over Bolwing Green. *AP*

MOSCOW CHALLENGE

Gatlin rules $1-M race



GATLIN blows kisses to the crowd during his victory lap. AP

MOSCOW—Justin Gatlin of the United States won US$500,000 in the 100 meters at the Moscow Challenge on Saturday, already celebrating one of the richest prizes in the history of the sport as he crossed the line ahead of Britain's Dwain Chambers.

Gatlin won the race in 10.05 seconds. Runner-up Chambers finished in 10.18 for US$150,000. The other racers shared the remainder of the massive US$1 million budget.

"I don't know how I will spend it," the 21-year-old Gatlin said. "I'll put it in the bank, collect interest—do something smart."

World record-holder Tim Montgomery took third place in 10.19.

"The guys were just too quick," he said.

And world champion Kim Collins finished only sixth.

"We never had a chance," Collins said.

It was the second major victory for Gatlin this year. He already took the 60 meters world indoor title.

Times were slow, mainly because temperatures dipped to just 7 degrees C (45 degrees C) on a frigid September night in Moscow.

The huge cash prize also was a consolation for failing to make the US team for the world championships for Gatlin.

Few races have had a bigger purse than Saturday's men's 100. In 1997, Canada's Donovan Bailey won US$1 million in a 150-meter showdown with America's Michael Johnson.

GATLIN (left) wins the men's 100m race ahead of compatriot John Capel. REUTERS

And Haile Gebrselassie earned as much last year by setting a world best at 10,000 meters on a road course in Doha, Qatar.

Chryste Gaines dominated the women's 100, easily beating Christine Arron of France and world champion Kelli White.

Gaines, running in long tights because of the cold, finished in 10.98 seconds and took home US$75,000. The American beat Arron by a whopping 0.2 seconds. White, who could still lose her two world sprint golds because of a doping scandal, crossed in a mediocre 11.21.

World champion Hicham El Guerrouj fought off one of his toughest challenges of the season in the 1500, barely pushing his chest in front of Paul Korir to win in 3:36.44, just .04 seconds ahead of the Kenyan.

Olympic and world champion Maria Mutola kept her unbeaten run in the 800 meters this season going, easily winning in a leisurely time of 1:58.82. *AP*

White ends season on bitter note

MOSCOW—Cold, hurting and a loser again, Kelli White wrapped up her scandal-tainted year in blankets on Saturday.

White lost for the second time in as many weeks to fellow American Chryste Gaines, this time at the Moscow Challenge invitational, failing to end the season on a high note.

Her spirits though, were upbeat despite the doping controversy which could still rob her of the two gold medals she won at the world championships last month.

"I'm freezing," she shouted, in between jokes with Gaines. After the race, the two were wrapped together in a blanket in the stands of the frigid Luzhniki Stadium where temperatures sank as low as 7 degrees C (45 degrees F).

"I'm done. I'm tired," she said.

Compared to her blazing runs at the worlds in Saint-Denis, France, last month, White has looked increasingly sluggish as she dragged herself to the end of the season.

On Saturday, she was slow out of the blocks and was never able to catch up with Gaines. She finished in 11.21, a massive .36 seconds of her season's best. *AP*

Gamo rips Mongolian, gets automatic bronze

XINJIANG, China—Ferdie Gamo, getting the luck of avoiding a Chinese rival in his quarterfinals bout, bagged an automatic bronze medal on Saturday to give RP Revicon Team the much needed break at the 2003 Xinjiang International Boxing Championships here.

Gamo outpointed Mongolian Bakthuu, 34-25, in their bantamweight fight to join light flyweight Lhyven Salazar in the medal bouts.

Salazar had earlier barged into the semifinals with a third round stoppage of Kazakhstan's Sikymbayeb last Thursday.

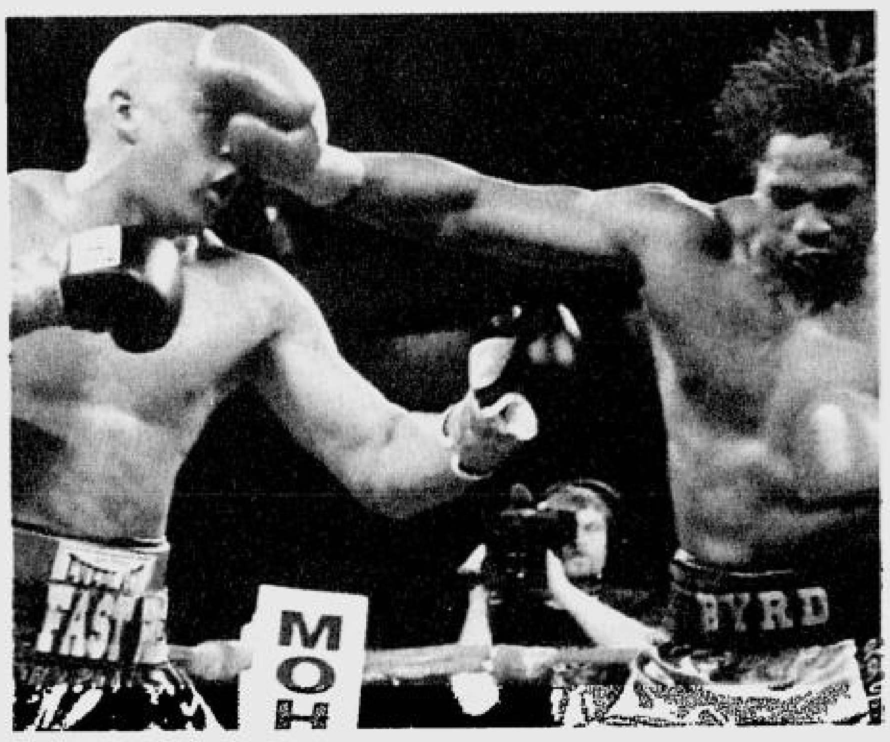
But as Gamo returned triumphant to the RP team's quarters, light middleweight Maraon Goles found himself confronting veteran Aibernaiti Remunisha of Xinjiang (China), who barged into the next round with a 19-10 victory.

Gamo and Salazar try to keep their gold medal hunt going on Sunday. Gamo will fight a still unidentified opponent while Salazar goes up against Nauman Karim of Pakistan, a silver medalist in the heavier flyweight division in the Busan Asian Games last year.

"*Sisikapin naming makapag-uwi ng ginto* (We'll try to bring home gold medals)," Gaspi told Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP) president and Federation of Asian Amateur Boxing (FAAB) secretary-general Manny Lopez in an overseas telephone call.

The eight-man team had earlier reeled from what the participants, including those from nine other nations who joined the event, deemed were "hometown decisions."

As it is, the four teams from China grabbed 24 semifinals seats in the 10-weight category tournament with Thailand and Mongolia claiming four berths each. Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Korea gained three each while Japan and Kyrgyzstan had one each.



TITLE FIGHT
International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion Chris Byrd (right) holds back Fres Oquendo in the 9th round of their heavyweight championship fight at Mohegan Sun Arena, Saturday in Uncasville, Connecticut. Byrd won by a unanimous decision to keep his crown. AP

Cops join Patakbo 5-K race

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) will field a group of runners in the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy set this Sunday at the Rajah Sulayman Park, fronting Malate Church, in Manila.

The service commands of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will follow suit, according to the organizers, who expect at least 1,000 runners to answer the starting gun on race day.

The PNP adds to the growing list of participants that also include a 127-strong group from the St. Augustine School of Nursing-Makati.

Other organizations which have signed up for the race, which offers cash prizes to the winners, are Rey Antoque's Tarlac-Army runners, the Tutuban Joggers Club, Directlink, the Letran Cagers under coach Louie Alas, the Philippine Christian University and Adamson University.

Nelson Macaraig, of Media Runners and Sports Promotions and Jonel Promotions, said the race will be held twice a month and open to all runners, including teenagers.

"We are elated that most of the participants agree with our race format," said Macaraig.

Rossi nails down 4th straight Moto GP victory

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—World champion Valentino Rossi easily won Saturday's Rio Grand Prix for his fourth consecutive victory in the Moto GP category at the Nelson Piquet Circuit.

The Italian started at the pole and set an unofficial record for the fastest lap at the 4.93-kilometer (3.05-mile track) of 1 minute, 50.453 seconds. It was his sixth victory in Rio in six years, but the first two wins came when he was racing in the 125cc and 250cc categories.

Starting out, Rossi briefly lost the lead to second place finisher Sete Gibernau of Spain. But Rossi retook it in the fourth lap on his Honda and never looked back. He finished with a time of 44:36.633 over 24 laps.

"Today the bike was perfect," said a beaming Rossi, his hair dyed yellow and green like the Brazilian flag.

Rossi has now won six of the 12 races in the season so far.

"For four or five races, every race had a new man and every time we had to start from zero," he said. "Now it's four races with the whole crew all together, so we built a team."

Gibernau, also on a Honda, finished 3.109 seconds behind Rossi. Third place went to Makoto Tamada of Japan, who rode his Honda to finish 7.298 behind the winner.

With the win, Rossi widens his lead to 262 points against Gibernau's 211 points. Rossi could conceivably take the championship at the next race at Motegi, Japan, if he wins and Gibernau fails to finish.

Gibernau chafed at that notion.

"I think this is a very good year," he said. "We are battling Valentino and myself in every race really hard, in very fair and square races."

But Gibernau said he was satisfied with the outcome, considering his crash Friday during the final stretch of the last qualifying run.

It was Tamada's first finish on the winners' podium. *AP*

[illegible] (10) heads the [illegible] Argentina. AP

Japan, North Korea booters flex might

NEW YORK—Asian powers Japan and North Korea got off to winning starts at the 2003 Women's World Cup while European heavyweights Norway and Germany also won on the tournament's opening day.

Japan got three goals from Mio Otani and two from star Homare Sawa to crush South American underdog Argentina, 6-0, Saturday. Earlier, Asian champion North Korea got a pair of goals from Jin Pyol Hui to down Nigeria, 3-0.

Norway, the 1995 World Cup champion, jumped into first place in Group B by topping France, 2-0 while European champion Germany came back from a goal down to beat Canada, 4-1, in Group C.

North Korea leads Group A with defending champion United States and Sweden set to play Sunday. Japan tops Group C, ahead of Germany on goal difference, and Norway leads Group B with Brazil and South Korea also playing Sunday.

In Columbus, Ohio, Sawa got the first two for Japan, hitting the target in the 13th and 38th minutes. She has scored 50 goals in 80 international games.

Emi Yamamoto made it, 3-0, in the 64th, and Otani netted three late goals to make it a rout with strikes in the 72nd, 75th and 80th minutes.

"We had prepared well for this match and our game execution was great," Japan coach Uedi Eiji said. "However, both Germany and Canada are different teams to play against and I am doubtful that we will be able to play the same way against them.

"There will be big challenges in the matches to come," he added. *AP*

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SPORTS

JUVENILE COLTS RACE

Don Paolo captures 2nd leg

By Edwin Villanueva

DON PAOLO finished off Last Hazm halfway through the route and won the second leg of the 2003 Juvenile Colts Championship yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

The down-the-wire battle that transpired in the first leg did not materialize as Don Paolo gamely held on to beat a different rival—longshot Sir Brendan Jean—in the 1,500-m race.

"Nanlamig sa rekta. Buti nanalo pa (He cooled off in the stretch. It's good he still won)," said star jockey Pat Dilema whose mount beat Sir Brendan Jean by just a neck.

Last Hazm, who nosed out Don Paolo in the initial leg, finished last after setting a brisk pace which Don Paolo easily quashed at the backside.

Don Paolo looked headed for an easy win when he rounded the last bend but Sir Brendan Jean loomed on the outside and made a late rush, forcing Dilema to apply the whip frantically to salvage first place.

"Kung may distansiya pa baka nakuha pa namin (We could have made it if there were more distance)," said Virgilio Camañero, rider of Sir Brendan Jean.

Third spot went to Air Force One (RG Fernandez), while Batangas Force (Edwin Blancaflor) came in fourth. Speed O War was scratched.

Better horse

"Last Hazm gave his all but Don Paolo was the better horse today. He showed consistency. I'd like to congratulate the winning connections," said Hermie Esguerra, Last Hazm's owner.

Don Paolo, owned by Talk 'N Text guard Paolo Mendoza and trained by his father Rudy, bagged P600,000 after notching his fourth victory in five starts.

"I'm so happy. I'm sure my father is also feeling the same thing right now. We are dedicating this victory to Mr. Ochie Santos," said Mendoza, referring to the former Philracom head who bred Don Paolo, a progeny of Medium Cool out of Vice Royal.

Don Paolo, co-trained by Nick Atienza, covered the race in 1:35 flat (17.5-24-25.5-28).

"Ihahanda namin siya sa (We're preparing him for the) Marho Breeders' Cup and Philtobo Mitra Cup," said Atienza.

Sir Brendan Jean, sired by Khozaam out of Star of Wonder, won P225,000, with Air Force One and Batangas Force getting P125,000 and P50,000, respectively.

The Mendoza Stable had earlier entered I Love This Game in the Juvenile Fillies Championship but the favored galloper finished only sixth, also under Dilema.

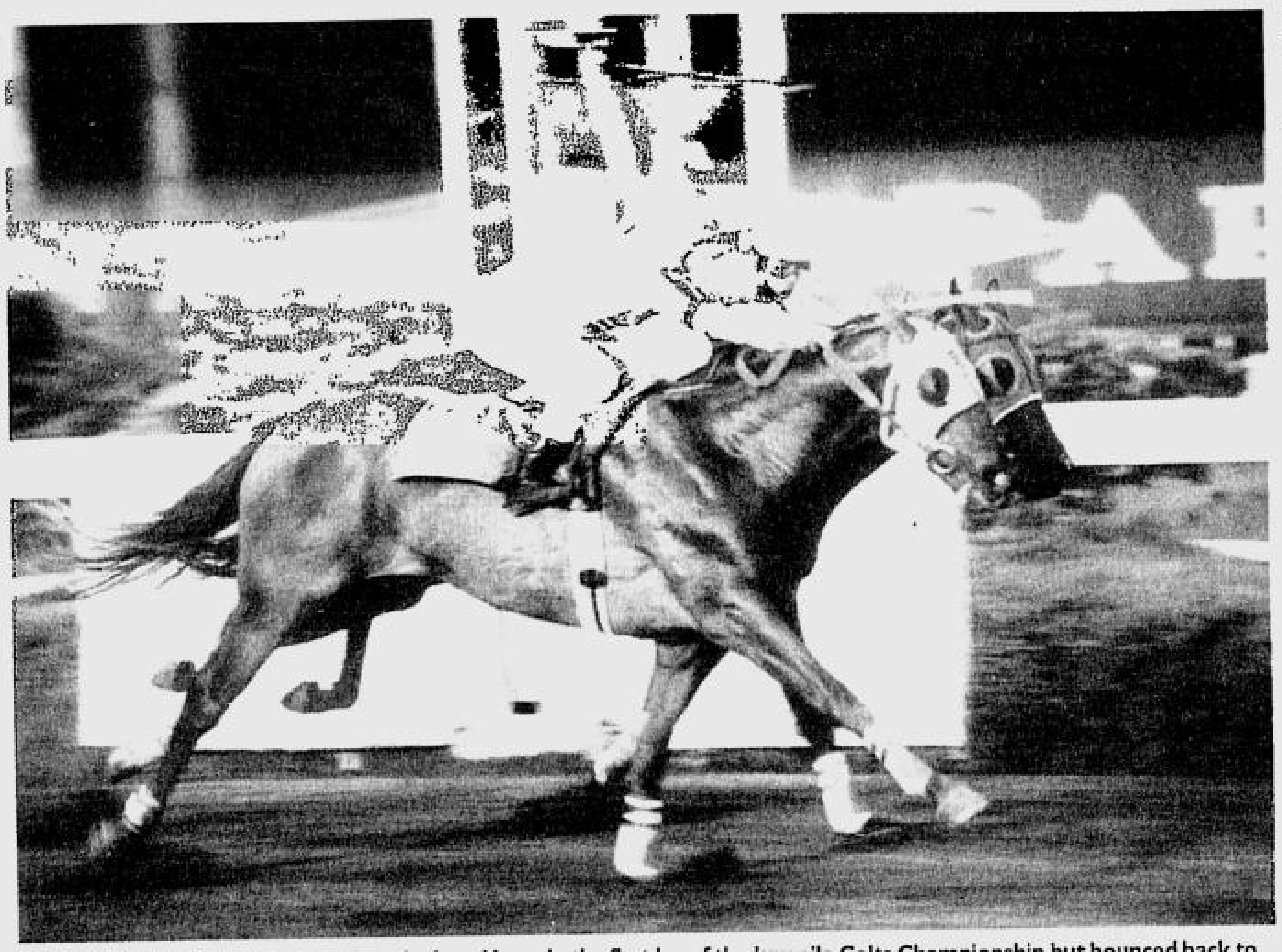
Sweet revenge

Far third choice, Cat's Jewel, emerged victorious, charging from dead last to exact revenge over first leg winner Gorgeous Sand.

Skippered by Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr., Cat's Jewel also bankrolled P600,000. The daughter of Khozaam and former imported campaigner Jeanette Jewel timed 1:36 (18-25-25-28), also over 1,500 m.

Sweet Talk (Dominador Borbe Jr.) ended up just half a length behind Gorgeous Sand (Manolito Daquis), while Tini Bambini (Antonio Alcasid Jr.) and Concorde (Jeffrey Ladiana) arrived fifth and sixth, respectively.

Chairman Jimmy Dilag of the sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission graced the awarding rites together with commissioners Eddie Jose, Roger Tandiama and Vergel Cruz.



DON Paolo (inner rail) was nosed out by Last Hazm in the first leg of the Juvenile Colts Championship but bounced back to win the second leg yesterday. The Pat Dilema-ridden Don Paolo bagged P600,000. FILE PHOTO

St. Scho, Zobel spikers still on top

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S College and De La Salle-Zobel remained the volleyball leaders even as defending juniors basketball champion Miriam College roared to its fifth straight victory Saturday in the 34th WNCAA-adidas tournament.

St. Scho created a two-way tie for the top spot in the midgets level after repulsing host Siena College of Quezon City, 25-19, 16-25, 25-19, at the Lyceum gym.

St. Scho and St. Benedict College are showing the way in the midgets division with similar 3-0 cards.

In the juniors division, DLS-Z likewise surged ahead at 5-0 alongside idle Miriam after whipping SBC, 25-17, 25-20, 25-18.

Rizal Technological University handed Angelicum College its seventh loss in as many games while upping its record to 4-2 with a 25-6, 25-10, 25-6 decision while Siena improved to 3-4 after downing Chiang Kai Shek College, 25-9, 25-15, 25-13.

University of the Assumption-Pampanga remained at third spot in the seniors division at 6-1 when it beat College of St. Benilde, 19-25, 27-29, 25-22, 20-25.

The 34th WNCAA-adidas is being sponsored by Rustan's Essences, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star, RPN 9, Monster Radio RX 93.1, Gold's Gym and in part by Cadbury, Secret, Island Cove resorts, Goldilock's, Café Lupe, Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog, Centrum and Confident Feminine Napkin.

In basketball, 33rd season winner Miriam is still unbeaten in five starts with Assumption College as its latest victim, 79-48.

World Slasher champ cries: Where's my winner's cup?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

LAST June 16, 18 and 20, little-known Rey Briones stunned the local cockfighting scene when he emerged co-champion of the World Slasher 8-Cock Cup with veteran Matt Bitanga at the Araneta Coliseum.

But would you believe that until now—or more than three months after—Briones has yet to get his rightful share of the coveted winner's silver cup symbolic of victory in the prestigious championship?

Briones told us over the weekend that he had called up several people, including an official of the organizing National Cockers Association and a Big Dome executive, but was given the runaround. I also called, but nobody was around to answer my query. Will somebody please help Rey Briones get his World Slasher Silver Cup? The international derby was hosted by Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares and Jun Santiago.

Cockfighting is a sport very close to my heart. Now, I'm afraid it has degenerated into a farce, no longer a sport among gentlemen who can be trusted to honor their word. In recent months, it has suffered from messy affairs like the circulation of bad checks, mounting complaints against mismatching and embarrassing incidents where derby champions have not been paid or given their prizes as in the case of newcomer Rey Briones.

A virtual unknown in cockfighting, Briones said he was even willing to pay his share of more than P22,000 just to get a replica of the World Slasher Silver Cup, stressing that the champion's cup is his only proof that he indeed won the World Slasher Derby, which is, without question, every cocker's ultimate dream.

"Sana ibigay na nila sa akin ang (I just hope they give me the) champion's Silver Cup," Briones said. "I have waited long enough."

A tabloid executive, Briones staged his successful debut in this year's World Slasher Derby when his Islander RB scored seven wins in eight fights to share the world championship with Bitanga's Golden Circle.

"I didn't expect to beat the elite field," he humbly said. "*Swerte lamang po* (I was just lucky)." The emerging talent of 2003, Briones is preparing for the National Bakbakan 9-Stag Derby in November.

***

IS SARS COMING BACK? The reemergence of suspected cases of SARS, the deadly flu-like disease in Singapore and Hong Kong recently, should not be taken lightly. SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) killed more than 900 people and afflicted 8,400 worldwide after it emerged last November in China. Medical experts said SARS could come back because the virus thrives during cold months. Because of this, officials of the country's national sports associations should heed again the warning of PSC chair Eric Buhain to postpone their participation in countries that have suspected cases of SARS.

"The PSC doesn't want to take chances when it comes to the health of our athletes," Buhain said, adding that the agency's concern is always for "the safety of the national athletes." During the SARS outbreak, the Philippines scrapped participation in several events in Singapore and Hong Kong, two of the places badly affected by SARS aside from Taiwan and Vietnam, host of this year's Southeast Asian Games.

Buhain added he was hoping things would improve between now and the SEA Games on Dec. 5-13. "Surely, it would have a big effect on the SEA Games if medical experts still don't develop a vaccine for SARS until December."

In the meantime, our national teams can always compete in some other SARS-free countries, which have about the same level of competition. Better to be safe than sorry.

***

ALL ABOUT BILLIARDS. Michaela Tabb, a familiar face to Filipino billiards fans of international tournaments on TV, is coming back to Manila to serve as international referee at the Bata Reyes vs "Rest of the World" showdown on Oct. 28-31 . . . Did you know that Germany's Thorsten Hohmann, recent winner of the World Pool Championship in Cardiff, has relatives in the Philippines? In a recent email to pool patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, the 24-year-old Hohmann said his uncle is married to a Filipina, who was born in Manila. "They are still living in Manila," said Hohmann, adding that "all their children are Francisco Bustamante fans."

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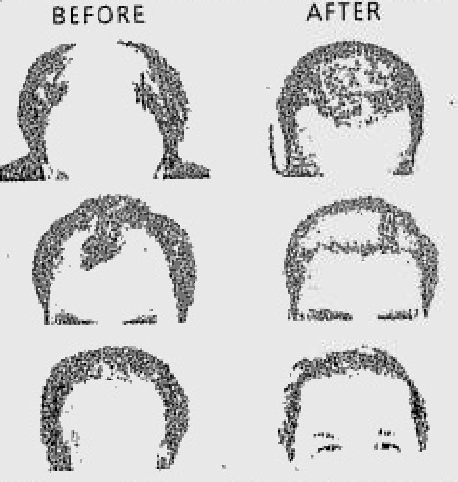

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Cojuangco group to buy ABC-5 for P5B

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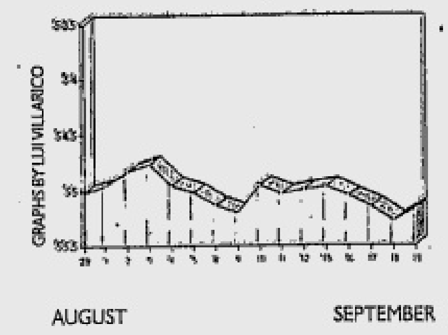

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Stocks seen to weaken

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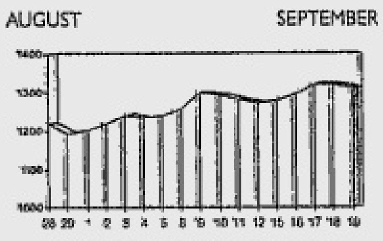


(See stock market report on Page B6)

SHARE prices will likely follow the lead of markets abroad this week after a hitting a 15-week high last week, analysts said.

"We would most likely follow the movements of the markets abroad but we would lag," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

"If they go up, we will continue to go up but to a lesser extent. If they go down, we should encounter some profit-taking also," he remarked.

"For (this) week, I think the market will just trade near the 1,300 level as it consolidates," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

De Leon said he was unconcerned by an announcement the Philippines' budget deficit in August had hit P18 billion, more than double the limit set for the period.

He said the cumulative deficit for the first eight months of the year still remained within government targets.

In this light, he said the market was unlikely to drop below 1,300 level again.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 2.9 percent or by 36.82 points over the week to close at 1,309.81 points on Friday.

The index hit a 15-week high on Tuesday before profit-taking set in.

Average daily volume for the week rose to 393.49 million shares worth P911.692 million from 253.142 million shares worth P548.62 million last week.

Shares fell back on Friday as investors cashed in gains after a sharp 3-percent rise earlier in the week.

Analysts said a surge in the budget deficit for August played on investor nerves. *AFP*

By Doris C. Dumlao

A CONSORTIUM led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco has agreed to acquire Associated Broadcasting Corp. (ABC-5) for close to P5 billion.

Sources close to Cojuangco told the INQUIRER that the consortium has finished its due-diligence audit on the television network and come up with a deal to buy out the existing shareholders.

"They are now working on the final contract," one of the sources said, noting that the closing of the deal would be formally announced in the next few days.

The source also said Cojuangco was buying into the television network with some undisclosed business partners, adding the deal was a bit complicated that the paperwork was taking some time to be finished.

Cojuangco, whose family still had some windfall from the sale of shares in PLDT to the First Pacific group of Hong Kong, is scouting for fresh business opportunities.

The indicative amount that his group was willing to pay to take over ABC-5 was higher than the earlier estimate of P4 billion. The INQUIRER reported that Cojuangco was making a pitch for the television station in June this year. The due- diligence audit started a few weeks after.

COJUANGCO

The acquisition of a local content provider like ABC-5 is expected to complement Cojuangco's satellite TV business—Dream Broadcasting Corp.

ABC-5 was first granted a congressional franchise under RA 2945 in 1960. It operated as a radio and television network from 1960 until 1972 when it was shut down when Martial Law was declared.

After the fall of the Marcos regime, the television network was revived. It broke ground at its new headquarters in Novaliches, Quezon City, in 1990 under a group of new stockholders led by broadcast veteran Edward Tan. It resumed commercial operations in 1992 and acquired a new franchise to operate in 1994.

At present, ABC-5 has 15 stations and more than 100 cable TV affiliates nationwide.

The entry of a new group in ABC-5, analysts said, could give the network a chance to better compete against ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and GMA Network Inc.

IMF says '04 elections a drag on economy

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has identified the May 2004 presidential polls as one of the biggest drags on the country's economy in the coming year, prompting the IMF to keep its growth outlook for the Philippines unchanged at 4 percent next year.

"The downside with the Philippines is the uncertainty related to the election period. We see this is a dampening factor and that's how we came up with only 4-percent growth for next year," IMF country representative Vikram Haksar said in a briefing on Friday.

Among the four economies tagged by the IMF as Asean-4, the Philippines was the only country where it saw no change in growth while Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand were seen to improve their economic performances, based on the Fund's newly published World Economic Outlook.

The IMF is looking at a 4-percent growth in gross domestic product for the Philippines this year and next against the government's expectations of a GDP expansion of 4.2-5.2 percent in 2003 and 4.9-5.5 percent in 2004.

Even government officials have recognized that the 2004 elections and the political issues distracting the economy in the run-up to the polls could affect growth and make borrowings more expensive.

So far, the peso had been the biggest casualty of politicking as the local currency weakened considerably since the July 27 mutiny and stayed volatile at the 55-to-$1 level. It closed at P55.16 to a dollar last Friday.

Haksar said that for the IMF, the Philippines' biggest challenges would be to achieve reforms in the fiscal, power and financial sectors even during an election period.

"The government must continue to focus on strengthening revenues to reduce the deficit. And the revenue gains this year are an important step toward fiscal consolidation," the IMF representative said.

The privatization of National Power Corp., he said, should be pursued aggressively to reduce losses in the energy sector. He admitted though that instituting reforms in the power sector could take time.

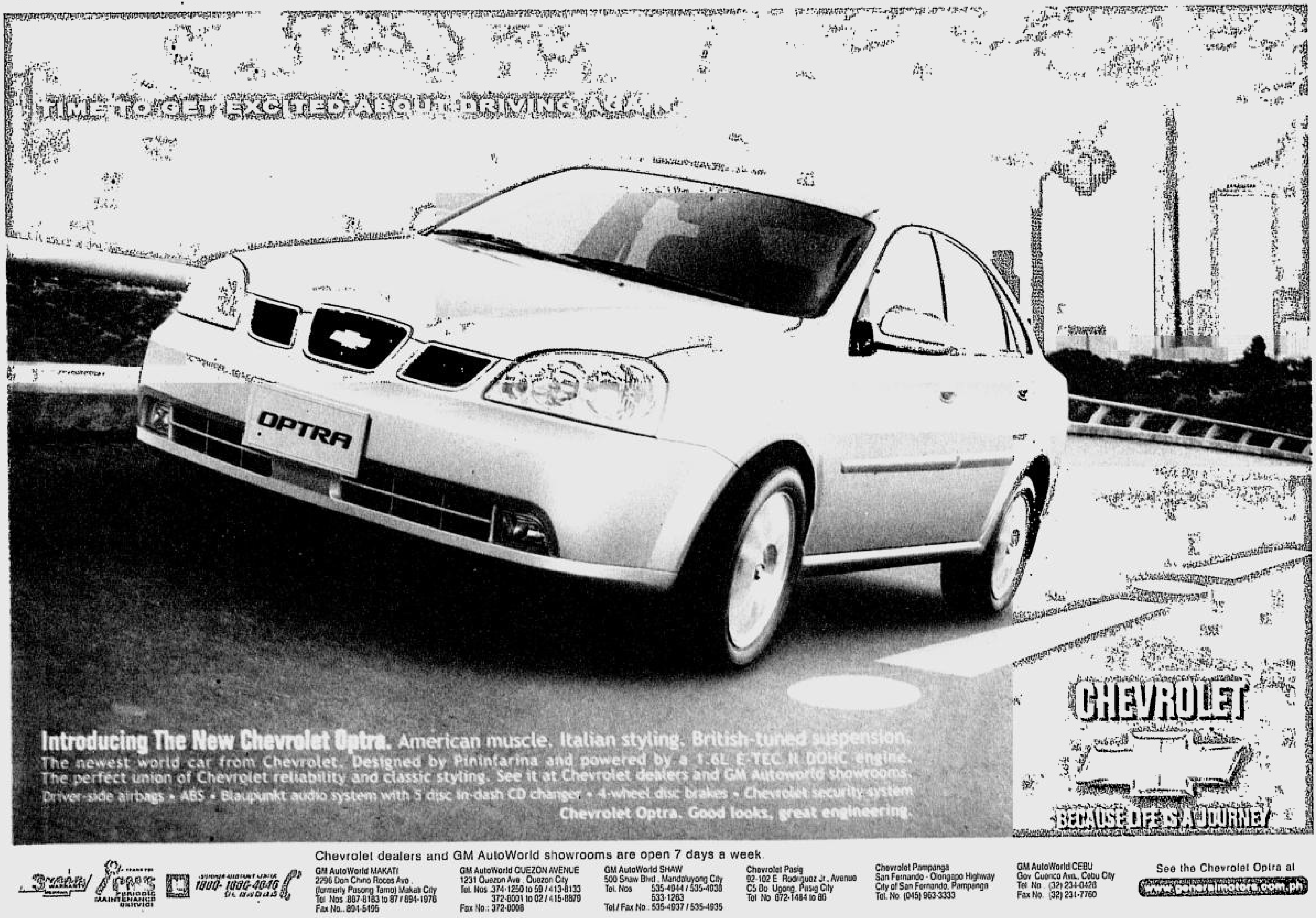
On the financial sector, Haksar reiterated the IMF's recommendation to give regulators wider powers to address abuses in the financial sector.

"We welcome the implementation of the law on SPV (special purpose vehicles) and we would like to see some of those in the pipeline to finally be completed to reduce the burden of the financial sector," Haksar said.

The SPV law would provide tax incentives to banks and asset management companies to facilitate the sale of banks' non-performing loans and seized assets. But since it was signed in January, no bank has taken advantage of the law, which will expire in January 2005.

The IMF's prognosis for the Philippines next year was not as rosy as the GDP growth forecast of 4 percent for Indonesia from 3.5 percent this year; 5.3 percent for Malaysia from 4.2 percent, and 5.1 percent for Thailand from 5 percent.

The IMF saw a slightly higher inflation for the Philippines next year at 3.4 percent from 3 percent in 2003.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Ayala Land (ALI on the stock exchange) has a duty to the investing public to keep a clean image.

Otherwise, at the mere hint of an anomaly in this rumor-sensitive and unforgiving market, its stock price can crumble. People then lose even their underwear, if any.

* * *

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

LAST week, one Manuel Sanchez put out a paid ad on this newspaper, calling the attention of Glorietta to what he claimed as anomalies in a project of ALI.

In other words, this certain Sanchez was crying for justice against ALI.

But Sanchez who? This, in effect, was also the reaction of some big names in politics which Sanchez loved to drop, claiming they were his supporters.

Among them were Sen. Vicente Sotto and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson. They denied any knowledge of what the hell this Sanchez was all about.

Also, according to talk among news people, the same guy demanded that, since he paid for a half-page ad here, we have to go all out for him. No dice, mister!

Maybe because of his success in past shady deals, in which he made a killing out of our tax money, this guy must really think that everybody else is a prostitute.

* * *

ANYWAY, the supposedly "anomalous" ALI project involves the old Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club in Quezon City.

Started more than 10 years ago, the project requires ALI to put up the money to develop part of the club's property into a high-end subdivision.

The club then gets a share in the profits. Moreover, the ALI project automatically adds value to the club membership shares. Their prices are sure to go up.

This is ALI, remember, which developed the business hub in Makati, and thereafter, everything it touched turned into…well, a stock market "buy" story.

* * *

NO wonder, a long time ago, a good majority of the club members already voted in favor of the project. Everything that had anything to do with the project got their approval.

One of the members who apparently did not like the project was that Sanchez. And so he went against the majority, and he started to make noises.

He filed complaints with different government agencies, such as the SEC and the DENR. He said bad things about club members and even Quezon City councilors.

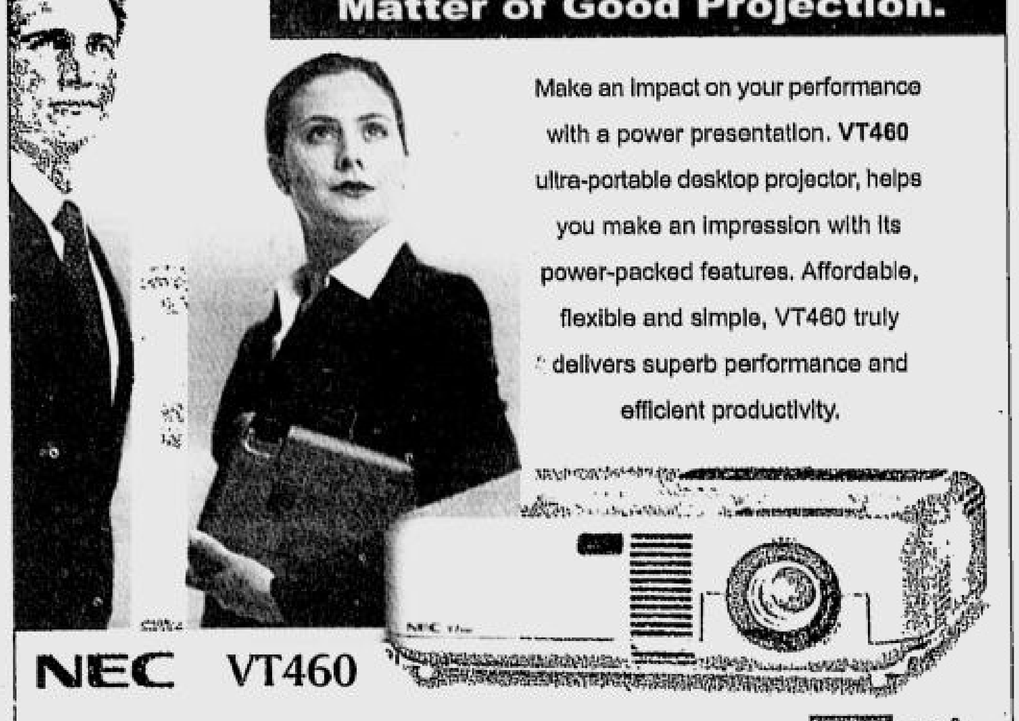
All his noise, by some mysterious forces in the universe, found their way to the media. For this newspaper, nevertheless, he had to put out a paid ad.

Even with his paid ad, if you notice, the stock market did not react. The price of ALI shares was steady. I wonder what it should tell us about the guy's credibility.

* * *

HOW can anybody take a guy like him seriously. From what I heard, he is under investigation in the House of Representatives for alleged "plunder."

BREAKTIME/ B6



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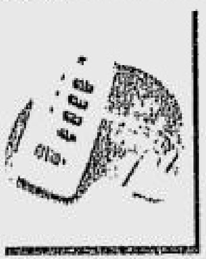

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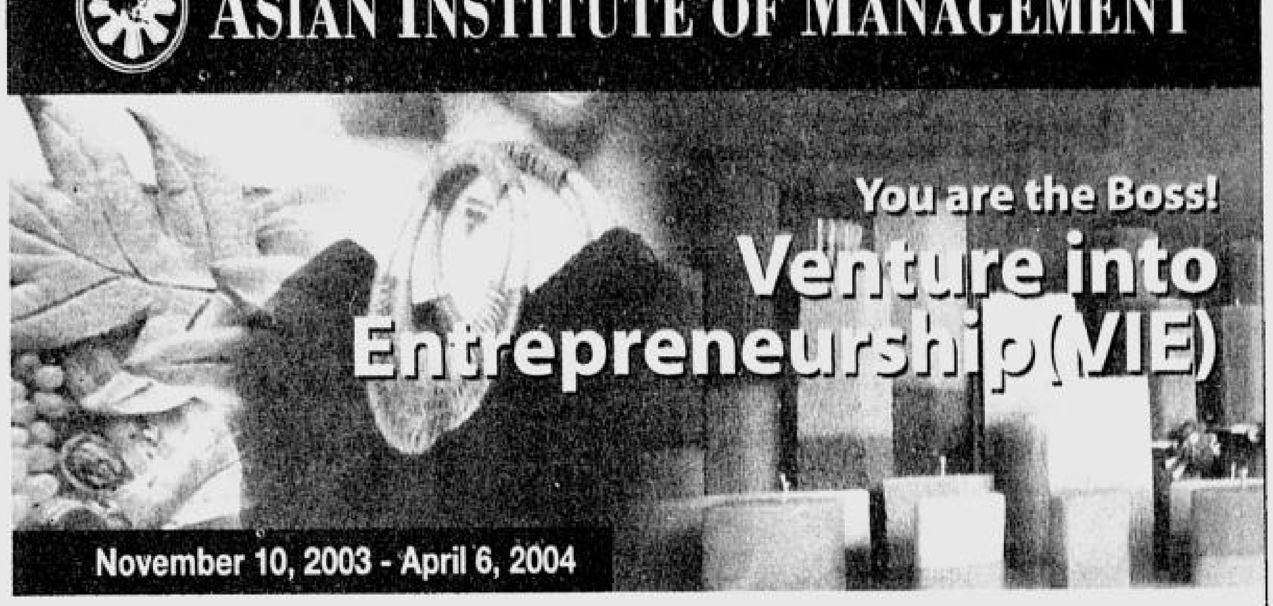

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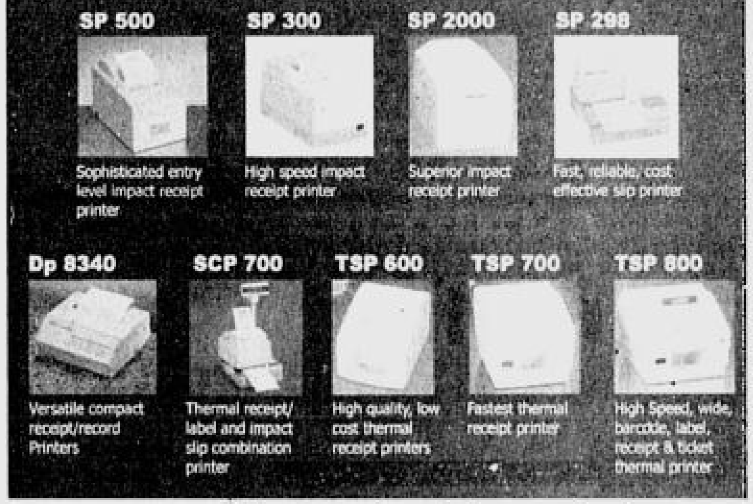

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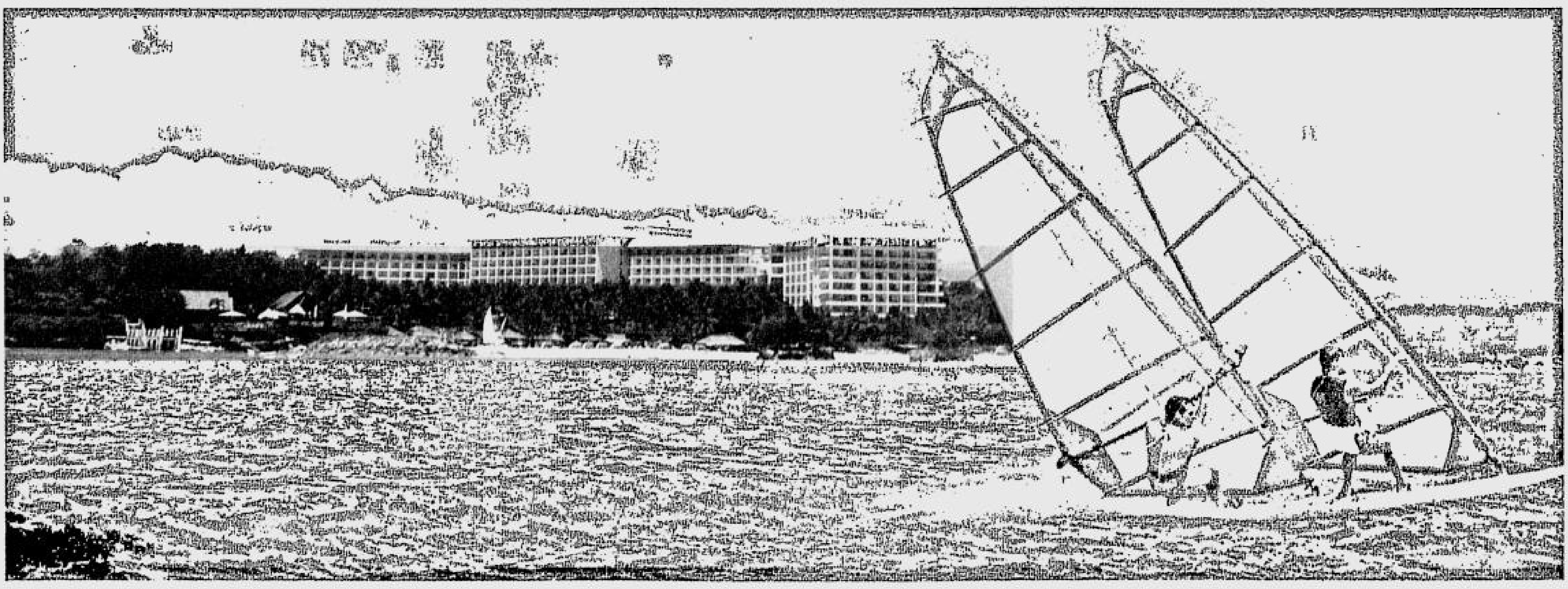

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BEING BEAUTIFUL IS NOTHING NEXT TO FEELING BEAUTIFUL

Transfer of Napocor assets delayed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE TRANSFER of National Power Corp.'s assets and debts to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) has been put off again to December even as the agencies are rushing to sell the first batch of Napocor's power plants.

Patrick Giraud, director of the Asian Development Bank's infrastructure division, said in an interview the transfer of the assets and the loans were taking longer than expected although the bank did not see any major obstacle to this.

"It is progressing, now purely a legal issue of acceptance of documents, and we look forward to have that done soon, at least for ADB's part," Giraud said.

Consent of the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation are also needed for the transfer to take place, which is a requisite for privatization moves.

"(The ADB) does not see any major obstacle at this stage, but (the process is) long because of a certain number of confirmations, clarifications and government undertaking that we ask for," the bank director said.

He said the Manila-based multilateral lender wanted to know who was guaranteeing what as long as the assets were with Napocor and Psalm.

"We want to make sure, for instance, that the sovereign guarantee we have through Napocor is the same guarantee through Psalm."

Giraud added that the ADB was monitoring developments in power reforms and privatization efforts as well as the government plans considering imminent setbacks.

He noted the lukewarm interest of investors in the privatization of the transmission service at a time when funds were needed to address system constraints.

There was also the problem posed by expected shortfalls in electricity supply as demand catches up with available capacity.

"We look forward to developments in the government's efforts to address the constraints in generation and transmission while pursuing power reforms and privatization," Giraud said.

That big, bad G word

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

NO, I'm not referring to the name of a particular President. I'm talking about globalization—that phenomenon that is marked by freer movement across national boundaries of goods and services, of people, of capital, and of knowledge and culture. It is a word that has been in the limelight lately because of the failed (at least from the point of view of some) WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun. A word that is on the lips of many a Filipino farmer or businessman feeling intense pressure from the influx of cheaper competing imports.

And yet so much seems misunderstood about the phenomenon, with much of the debate being clouded by emotion and half-informed arguments. For something now seen to have such a profound impact on people's lives everywhere, it is best that one take an objective, dispassionate examination of how the phenomenon affects our lives as Filipinos. This is crucial because not everything about globalization is bad—in fact, there is also so much we are benefiting from it—that we ought to be careful not to throw out the baby with the bath water as we figure out our best approach to it.

Nothing new

The globalization phenomenon is actually not new, certainly not just a creation of the 1990s. The world saw a similar wave of globalization, although it was not called as such, late in the 19th and early in the 20th century—perhaps coincidentally, about a century ago. At that time, technological advances, particularly in transportation, made it so much easier than before to move people and commodities across the continents. Just one indication: in the first decade of the 1900s, foreign direct investments accounted for a full one-half of total investments in Britain. The rich countries now average only about 6 percent, suggesting that based on this yardstick, the US, Japan or Germany are much less globalized now than Britain was in 1910!

The current wave of globalization was similarly ushered in by technological advance, this time more prominently in information and communication technology. It is this technological element of globalization that gives it a certain inevitability, such that even countries wishing to block it simply cannot. Witness some countries' futile efforts to regulate the information received by its citizens through the Internet or satellite television. Or the largely unsuccessful efforts of countries (including ours) to stop smuggling of commodities, and even of people (also known as human trafficking). Or the near-impossibility of stopping cross-border crimes like terrorism, illegal drug trade, and money laundering. One can say that technology is both a friend and foe as countries attempt to find the best approach to the globalization phenomenon.

Filipinos benefit too

For all the outcry against it, many seem to forget that the same globalization has been instrumental in improving the lives of countless Filipinos, first among whom are the families of those who have found more gainful employment overseas. This includes both the contractual workers and the more stable professionals, many of whom have settled abroad with their families. They would be among the first to suffer if their host countries would suddenly reject globalization, and began restricting the participation of foreign nationals in their labor force.

It is the same globalization that is giving jobs to hundreds of thousands of Filipino professionals who do not need to leave the country to earn comfortable salaries in software and animation firms, call centers, and electronics companies. Globalization and the technologies that have fostered it make it possible for their work to be outsourced here from their mother companies abroad.

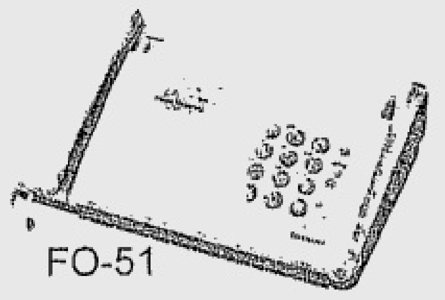
The same globalization has been largely responsible for the wider choice of commodities and the generally stable prices, especially of basic commodities, that Filipino consumers have been enjoying in recent years. It is no mean feat that our inflation rate has become comparable to that of most progressive countries around us, i.e. in the low single digits, with our current inflation rate averaging just 3 percent. When I was the government's chief economic planner in the 1990s, a 7-percent inflation rate seemed like a dream!

It wasn't too long ago when we used to suffer from much higher inflation rates (i.e. much faster price increases) running up to double digits. This was especially at the time when we still insisted on making imported commodities much more expensive for ourselves by adding on hefty import tariffs to their price. That only made it possible for our own producers to be that much more inefficient (translation: more costly producers), and made our government more complacent in providing the necessary support to make them more competitive. Meanwhile, the greater majority of us Filipinos had to pay the price. Or should I say, the higher price.

It is in fact basic in economic theory that a small insulated economy will tend to have more volatile prices, because its own mistakes in economic management tend to get far more magnified in their impact than in a small, open economy.

Please don't get me wrong and see me as singing praises to globalization as if it has not hurt us as well. Next week I will examine the down side, and identify the real enemy.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu



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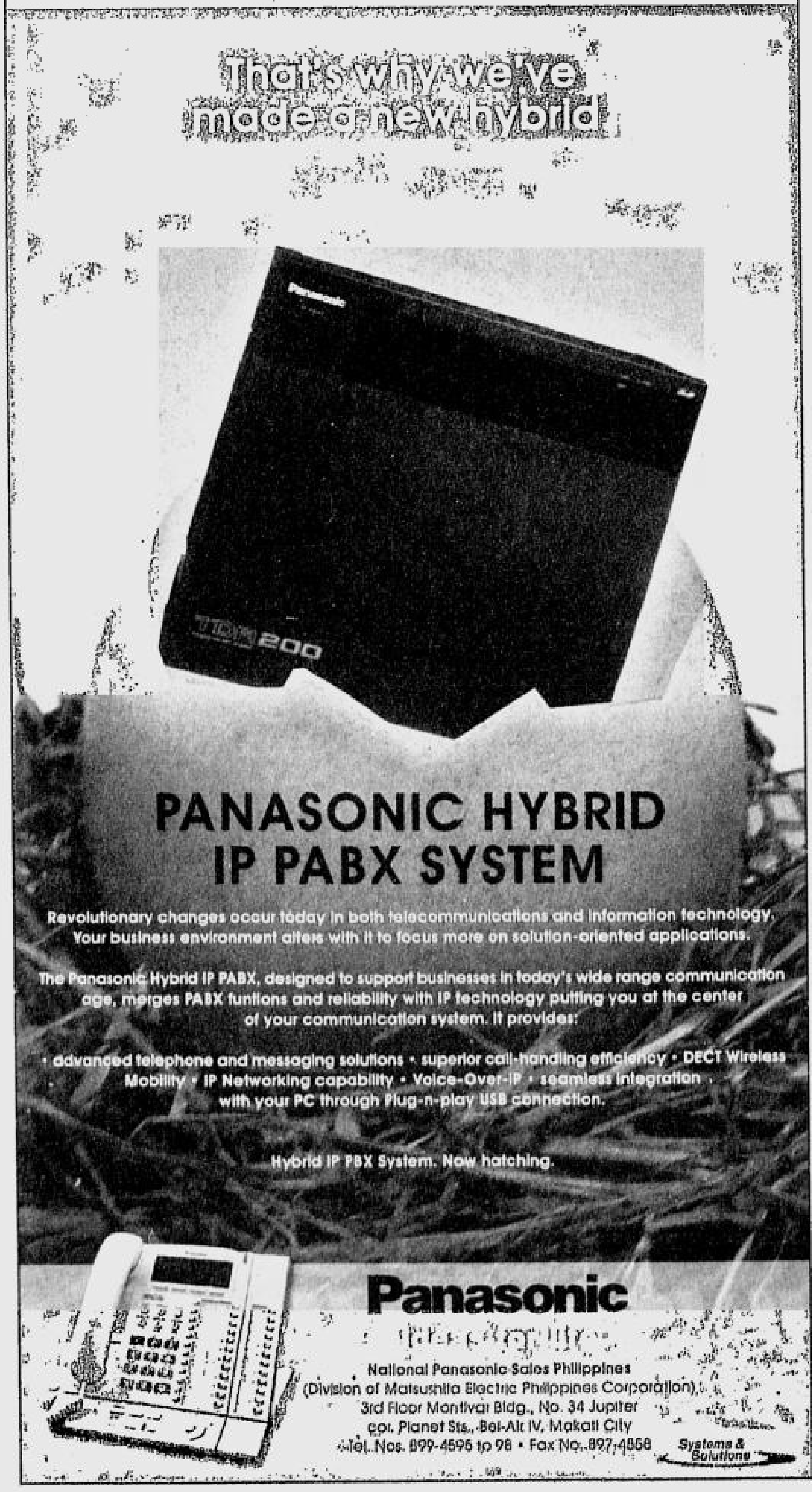

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Crocodiles of Wack Wack

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IN addition to lawyers, sharks, politicians, and clowns, Wack Wack will soon have crocodiles crawling within the popular golf course.

Wack Wack chair Benjamin Abalos wants to import 10 crocodiles from Palawan and let them loose within a purpose-built enclosure by the creek near hole 16.

Abalos has already sent out a circular about the plan, lest members mistake the fierce creatures for a number of politicians that also frequent the Mandaluyong course.

The crocodiles are part of the Abalos vision to bring a little bit of wildlife within the manicured greens, and hopefully increase family patronage and business as well.

Already, cackling chickens and crying geese have been let loose within the club grounds and allowed to roam even on the fairway, startling a few unsuspecting golfers about to take a swing.

In all, though, the club members seem to warm up to the idea of bringing wildlife into the city.

The golf hands and the security guards are said to be the most enthusiastic supporters, salivating over the prospect of a self-generating supply of free-range fowl as *pulutan*.

Mazda makeover

FORD would not publicly admit it, but it now appears that the Dearborn headquarters tacitly concede that scuttling Mazda to make way for the return of Ford in the Philippines had been a mistake.

. Ford Philippines has already formally informed President Macapagal-Arroyo that Mazda cars would again be available by the "first quarter of 2004."

Other than the target period, the local Ford was mum about other details of the re-launch.

But like the Ford re-launch, the Mazda comeback will likely start off with offering the brand's higher-end models like the engineering marvel RX-8 and the highly competitive Mazda6.

The ever-popular Mazda Miata roadster, which also has built a local cult following, might even stage a comeback after its brief pre-Asian crisis offering, especially with the excise tax now reduced to more affordable level.

Injudicious oversight

IS it a case of inattentiveness, oversight, or plain brinkmanship?

Andres Narvasa retired as chief justice of the Supreme Court in November 1998, and yet according to the Bangko Sentral-installed comptroller of Banco Filipino, the ex-CJ signed up as consultant of the thrift bank starting May 1, 1999, for P68,888/month.

If the contract date is correct, then Narvasa took on legal work within the one-year prohibition period imposed on newly retired judges and justices.

Narvasa, incidentally, was one of the justices that upheld in 1991 Banco Filipino's illegal closure claim against the central bank.

The ex-CJ is helping Banco Filipino claim at least P18 billion in damages from the government.

French cut

IT looks like Manila Electric Co. would be the first major client of PublicisAMA advertising agency to transfer its business to the breakaway Filipino group.

According to the grapevine, Meralco gave office space and telephone lines within its sprawling Ortigas building to the local boys, who now have revived the Advertising and Marketing Associates, as the local agency was known before it merged with the French advertising giant Publicis.

With the Filipino partners now accusing Publicis of controlling about 66 percent of the joint venture—the Constitution still limits foreign ownership of advertising agencies to 30 percent—the beneficial ownership of other Publicis Philippine subsidiaries like Hemisphere Leo Burnett is also now in question.

Hemisphere recently underwent ownership change, with its CEO Greg Garcia having supposedly divested of his shareholdings in favor of the Paris-based multinational.

If his name rings a bell, it is because Greg Garcia is the same advertising consultant of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the "Incredible Hulk" exposé.

Greg, alam ba ni Ping itoh?

Heard through the grapevine

PCSO Chair Maria Livia Singson-de Leon wants to run for Congress in the next elections, but the incumbent in her Ilocos district, Salacnib Baterina, seems to be enjoying the office and has apparently forgotten his alleged compact with Singson-de Leon.

A younger sister of Ilocos kingpin "Chavit" Singson, Singson-de Leon was supposed to have run in the last congressional elections, but gave way to the elderly Baterina, who wanted one last hurrah prior to his retirement.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Unemployment in M. East to cut demand for OFW

By Elena R. Torrijos

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—The growing unemployment problem in the Middle East and North Africa may hold or cut demand for Philippine workers in the region, which is host to the bulk of overseas Filipino workers.

"At current trends, it's stagnation. We don't see an increase and maybe (demand for foreign labor will) decline, so that's why it's critical that the reforms be taken so the economies will start getting some vitality and dynamism," Mustapha Nabli, World Bank regional chief economist and director of the social and economic development group, said in an interview following the bank's presentation of an employment report on the MENA region.

The World Bank report, released on the eve of the International Monetary Fund's and the bank's annual meeting here, noted that the MENA region faced an unprecedented employment challenge given its current 15-percent unemployment rate and the likelihood that its labor force would expand to 185 million workers by 2020 from 104 million three years ago.

"If the economies of the region are not growing this is going to negatively affect the demand for labor from the Philippines. We think that the prospects for big migrations from abroad are not there anymore in the gulf countries," Nabli said in the interview.

The unemployment problem may not only affect future flow of Philippine labor into the region but also adversely impact the estimated 1.34 million OFWs in the Middle East and Africa, such as 34-year-old Violeta Lenon, a babysitter now working part-time as cashier at one of the food concessionaires at the annual meetings here.

Lenon noted that job opportunities here have become more difficult to come by given the now larger number of Filipinos and foreigners looking for jobs.

Other Filipinos interviewed also said that job openings have become scarce and there has been increasing nationalization of employment in the region.

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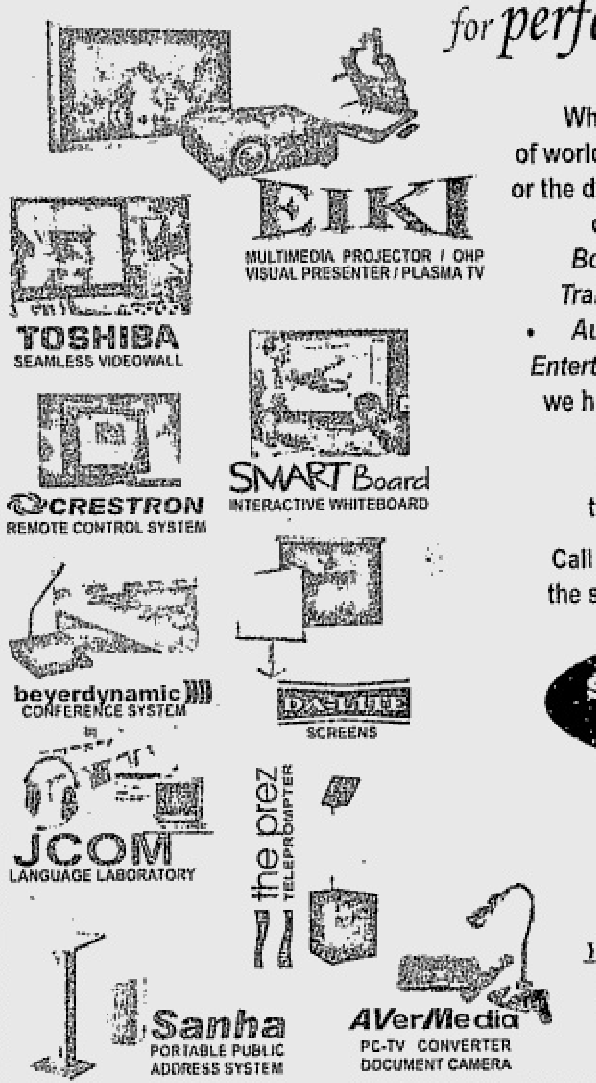
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Canadian firm gets permit to drill in Manila Bay, C. Luzon

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CANADIAN petroleum firm Forum Energy Corp. said it has finalized the terms of a service contract with the national government covering Manila Bay and the West Central Luzon block.

This means that Forum Energy, through its local unit Forum Exploration Inc., is expanding its exploration activities from Cebu where it is currently drilling a second onshore well looking for oil under a separate contract, Service Contract 40.

The Alberta-based company also said it has raised $2 million through a private placement to develop contract areas through Forum Exploration.

The new contract will be called SC 43 and covers 480,000 hectares including Manila Bay and the adjacent land area of Central Luzon.

Larry Youell, Forum Energy president and chief executive, said in a statement the firm was able to save time and money in finalizing the contract terms without having to go through the preliminary stage of a geophysical survey and exploration contract or GSEC.

Forum Exploration was originally applyin for GSEC 92 covering the same areas.

Energy officials explained that an investor first applies for a GSEC for preliminary exploration, then proceeds with a SC for more aggressive activities like drilling wells and production testing up to commercial development.

"Our work on (SC 43) will begin this fall, when we expect to commence shooting the new seismic [an equivalent of ultrasound for the earth] over the Manila Bay offshore prospect," Youell said.

The petroleum executive said Forum Energy would be acquiring 250 kilometers of high resolution 2-D seismic and, depending on results, anticipated drilling a well.

He said two main prospects in the area--known as prospects A and B—were known to hold at least 700 billion cubic feet of natural gas or a third of the Malampaya reserve.

Youell said that due to the nearness of a developing gas market and the shallow water depth in Manila Bay—about 75 feet—a discovery of gas in SC 43 in commercial volumes would be readily developed, particularly in view of the technology available to exploit gas reserves in such locations.

For comparison, the Malampaya gas is brought from the deep waters of Northwest Palawan to an onshore gas processing plant in Batangas 504 kilometers away.

Meantime, Forum Energy said it had formally closed last Aug. 25 a private placement where it raised $1.94 million through the issuance of 19.4 million shares at $0.10 a share.

The Nasdaq-listed firm added that, due to a high level of demand, it was in the process of completing a second closing in which it would issue an additional 2.1 million common shares.

Breaktime . . .

From page B2

Well at least this Sanchez can boast that he has something in common with the 'man named Band…Wrist Band.

It's just that the former President is confined in a government hospital indefinitely, while Sanchez is still wrecking havoc upon everybody in Capitol Hills.

Anyway, from what I gathered, the plunder investigation had something to do with our very own hard-earned tax money. Sanchez supposedly got a huge sum of it.

* * *

IN 1977, during the Marcos dictatorship, the government built the Manila-Infanta road. It used some private land for the road.

About 10 years later, it turned out that the government had yet to pay for the land. All of a sudden, a new owner of the land came forward to claim payment.

The new owner was—who else—none other than our very own Sanchez. It seems he bought the land from the original owner.

Without much ado, thank you, after a long time, Sanchez immediately got an agreement from the government on the payment for the land.

Not only that, he also, er, "convinced" the government to pay for rent on the land during the past 10 years or so. In other words, he made a killing.

* * *

FOR it turned out that the government agreed to pay Sanchez some P360 million. That was in 1988, mind you, when P350 million could buy you an entire subdivision.

The mystery behind such a huge claim was unraveled by the DPWH itself. The department found out that the Rizal provincial assessor gave charity value for the land.

In the House investigation, they found out that Sanchez bought the land, after it was already expropriated by the government, for only P7.30 per square meter.

He then turned around, based on the House investigation, and charged the DPWH a friendly regular-customer price of only P3,000 per square meter.

Anyway, by the time the DPWH caught up with the scam, este, scheme, Sanchez was already given a handsome sum of only P120 million. That is our tax money.

* * *

NOW, as I said, ALI is a giant in Philippine business. It is the country's biggest real estate company. Don't tell me it is possible for ALI to surrender to guys like Sanchez.

Word among Capitol Hills members is, despite having gotten a huge chunk of our tax money, Sanchez is not yet happy.

He supposedly owns some 20 shares in Capitol Hills. Why would anybody want to accumulate so many shares? One share gives you all the benefits of membership.

The wise guy, it is said among the Capitol Hills members, actually wants to make another killing out of those club shares.

He wants the club or even ALI (it does not matter which) to do what DPWH did for him some time ago. And that is, to buy his shares at an exorbitant price. Nice try!

Bangko Sentral OKs Equitable PCI bid to sell insurance products in branches

By Clarissa S. Batino

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has received the go-ahead of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to sell life insurance products of its affiliate within the bank's branches.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the Monetary Board approved the application of the country's third-largest bank to engage in a new trend called bancassurance where products of Equitable PCI Life Insurance Co. could be sold within the bank's branches.

Equitable PCI now owns only 5 percent of the insurance company after selling 95 percent to the Philam Life Group, a subsidiary of American Insurance Group.

Reyes said bancassurance could provide banks with an additional source of income. This is the reason why the Monetary Board expanded the insurance products available over bank counters to include car insurance policy.

The first to take advantage of the expanded cross-selling was Bank of the Philippine Islands, which was allowed to sell auto insurance products of affiliates Ayala Life and BPI MS Insurance Corp. within the branches of BPI.

But the Monetary Board deferred action on the request of BPI Family Bank, the savings bank of the Ayala-owned lender, to sell the same products.

Reyes said other commercial banks with at least 5-percent stake in any insurance firm could sell car insurance policies and other products previously approved by the Monetary Board.

"But each qualified bank has to apply for MB approval before they can sell car insurance policies. Section 20 of the General Banking Law allows bancassurance for commercial banks and was unclear whether thrift banks could be included," Reyes said.

The Philam Life Group, for instance, has a savings bank, but resorted to buying into an insurance firm of a large bank to engage in bancassurance.

The central bank's policy-making Monetary Board has allowed commercial banks starting in the fourth quarter last year to engage in bancassurance activities if they have a stake of at least 5 percent in the insurance firm.

But the insurance products to be sold are limited to those approved by the Monetary Board, mostly life insurance and limited non-life products like car insurance.

The central bank, however, cautioned banks to make sure that customers were made aware that the insurance products being sold were neither deposits nor deposit substitutes and not covered by Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 19, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	243,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	42.5	42.5	715,800
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	400
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	253,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29.5	30	151,300
Philippine National Bank	26	26	25.5	25.5	56,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	5,400
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	2,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	17,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	77,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1710	1700	1710	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	103,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1210	1220	1210	1220	8,720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.75	25	24.75	24.75	9,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	1,940,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	685	665	665	20,710
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.047	0.05	9,600,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.66	0.67	17,420,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	310,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	665	665	660	660	130,020
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	30,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.25	15.25	255,600
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	23	23	367,600
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.04	515,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	38,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	140,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	33,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	190,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	184,300
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	158,900
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	13,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	440,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.95	5	14,445,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	510,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.034	0.031	0.031	6,600,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	22,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	10,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.96	2.28	1.94	2.28	58,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.62	12,360,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,850,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	368,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.5	17.75	18	544,000
Global Equities Inc	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	20,000
Ionics Inc.	1.44	1.72	1.44	1.68	3,868,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.96	2.02	1.96	2	669,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	180,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	10,000,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	3,940,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,960,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	240,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	1,385,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	50,000
Wellex Industries Inc	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	60,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	12,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	13,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.085	0.085	0.0825	0.0825	1,200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	6,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	890,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	200,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	1,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.19	0.22	0.19	0.19	310,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	350,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25	25	25	1,000,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0014	0.0016	0.0012	0.0014	67,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	5,157,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	170,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	3,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	5,208,000
Kuok Phil Properties	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	990,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	200,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	90,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	11,591,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	22,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	70,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,636,020	61,669,065.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	219,056,430	280,496,745.00
PRO	26,628,000	115,280,240.00
Mining	31,100,000	159,800.00
OIL	72,140,000	264,600.00
SME	6,000	6,120.00
GRAND TOTALS	350,566,450	457,876,570.00

CURRENCIES

September 19, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.889205	1.000000	55.253000
Japan	Yen	0.007711	0.008672	0.479200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437933	1.617100	89.349600
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114014	0.128220	7.084500
Switzerland	Franc	0.641840	0.721813	39.882300
Canada	Dollar	0.653443	0.734862	40.603300
Singapore	Dollar	0.508698	0.572082	31.609200
Australia	Dollar	0.592290	0.666089	36.803400
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.358760	2.652661	146.567500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.237122	0.266667	14.734200
Brunei	Dollar	0.507248	0.570451	31.519100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021967	0.024704	1.365000
UAE	Dirham	0.242119	0.272287	15.044700
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.124600	62.137500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234063	0.263227	14.544100
Mexico	New Peso	0.081525	0.091683	5.065800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518941	0.583601	32.245700
Korea	Won	0.000762	0.000857	0.047400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026153	0.029412	1.625100

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CLUB FILIPINO	140K	ROCKWELL	350K	CC @ TAG	350K
EAGLERIDGE "A"	270K	S WOODS "A"	470K	FOREST HILLS "A"	150K
FOREST HILLS "A"	200K	STA. ELENA "A"	1.4M	MLA POLO	2.125M
MLA POLO	2.15M	SUBIC BAY YACHT	120K	ORCHARD "A"	Call Now
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RIVIERA GCC	10,000	WACK WACK	[illegible]

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GG & A Club Shares
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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,175,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	600,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"		65,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	45,000	70,000
Camp John Hay	220,000	250,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwood		150,000
Capitol Hills	150,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	180,000
Club Filipino	150,000	175,000
Evercrest "A		80,000
Forest Hills "A"	180,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C" *	200,000	275,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	240,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,150,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	400,000	450,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club		450,000
Metropolitan Club "A"		100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	210,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	35,000	-
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	170,000	475,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	60,000	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"		180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Sta. Elena "A"	100,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	780,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	600,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	250,000	270,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,000,000	7,100,000

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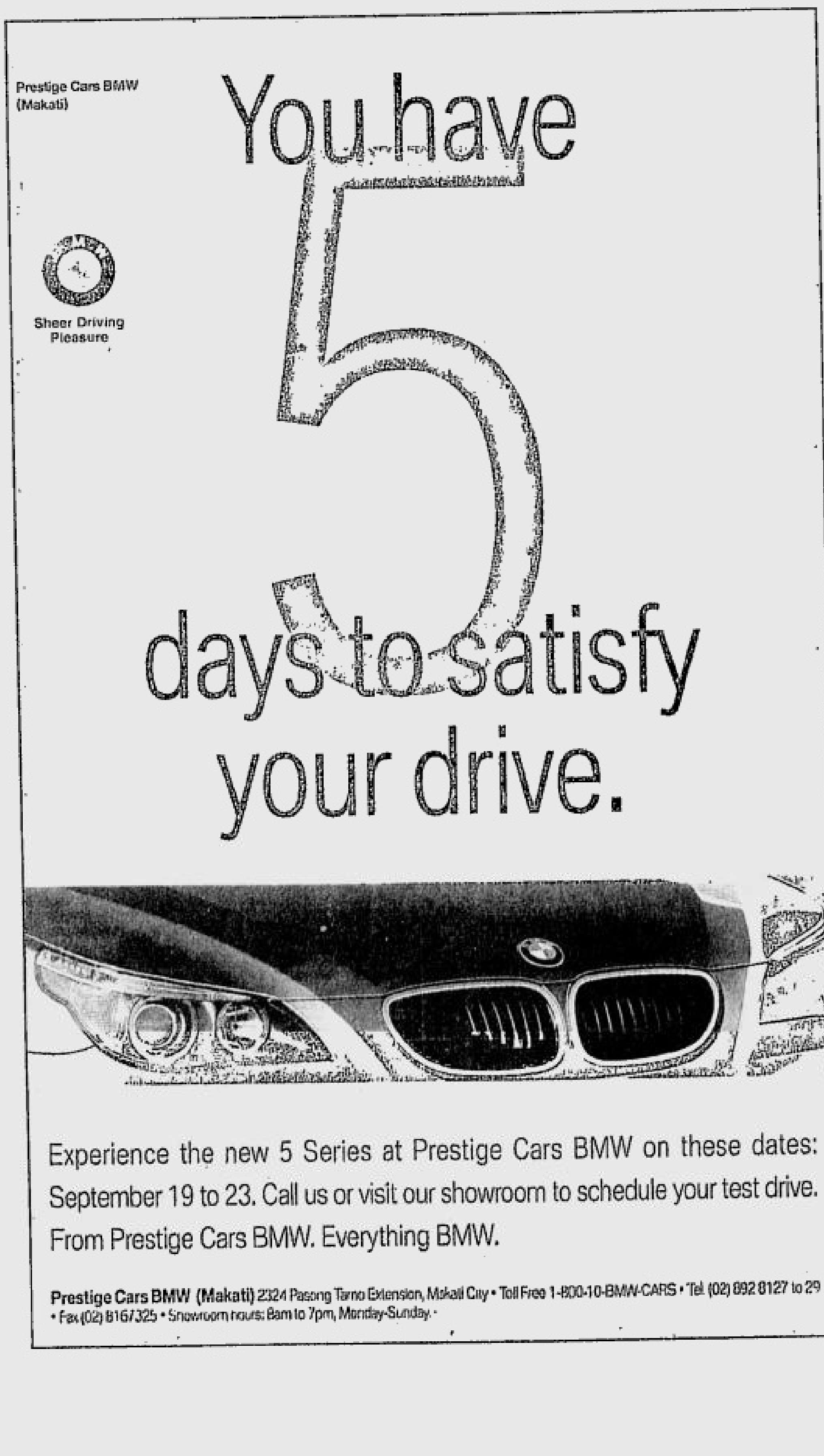

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Ford to increase exports of CBUs

By Michelle V. Remo

FORD Motor Co. Philippines is set to increase exports after the government assured it would begin giving export incentives to the local automotive industry next month.

Ford, currently the country's sole exporter of completely built-up units, plans to hike its car exports from the current 10,000 to 100,000 per year and make the Philippines a major car exporter in the Southeast Asian region.

"We are happy to know that there is progress in the implementation of EO No. 156, which was signed in December. Ultimately, it (granting of export incentives) will support the government's target of increased domestic production to 250,000 units per year by 2007," said Cherry Ramirez, Ford's assistant vice president for corporate affairs.

Under EO No. 156, the government targets to boost the country's automotive industry through support programs under the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP), like granting of export incentives, enhancement of the auto excise tax system, realignment of tariffs on raw materials; and prohibition of importation of second-hand vehicles.

Ramirez said the granting of incentives would not only push Ford to expand its production, but would also encourage other carmakers to go into exports.

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One out of five Filipino families still in the dark

By Abigail L. Ho

ONE in five Filipino families still has no electricity, with those belonging to the lowest 40 percent of the income stratum suffering the most.

According to the 2002 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS) of the National Statistics Office, 21 percent of or some 3.34 million of the 15.92 million families in the country have no electricity.

Of the 15.92 million families, 6.37 million belong to the poorest 40 percent. Some 2.8 million of these lower income families -- four in every 10, or around 44 percent, have no electricity.

The lowest 40 percent income group, according to the NSO, refers to the bottom 40 percent in the list of families whose incomes are arranged in descending order. In the report, those belonging to the lowest 40 percent income bracket are classified as poor.

Hardest hit by this absence of electricity are poor families in the rural areas. Of the 7.98 million families in the countryside, around 35 percent are still in the dark. Of this total, 4.82 million are poor families, almost half of which have no electricity.

Families belonging to the upper 60 percent of the income bracket, on the other hand, have less of a problem with regard to electricity.

Only about 477,500, a little over 5 percent of the 9.56 million families belonging to the upper 60 percent, have no electricity. In the rural areas, only 395,000 or 12.5 percent of 3.16 million higher-income families have no connection to electric lines.

Among the country's 16 regions, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has the highest percentage of families without electricity, both in the urban and rural areas.

Around seven of every 10 poor families in the ARMM still have no electricity, while almost four of every 10 higher-income families suffer the same fate.

The most electrified region in the country is still the National Capital Region, the seat of the country's capital.

In the NCR, only three percent of the poor families have no electricity, while less than one percent of those belonging to the higher income segment have the same predicament.

To respond to this electrification problem, both the government and the private sector have set up initiatives to help bring electricity to all parts of the country.

These initiatives include the Department of Energy's O Ilaw project and independent power producer Mirant Philippines Corp.'s Project Beacon (Barangay Electrification Assistance to the Countryside).

The 2002 APIS is a nationwide survey conducted by the NSO to provide inputs to the integrated poverty indicator and monitoring system of the Philippines.

Employers are biggest stakeholders of SSS

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE BIGGEST stakeholders of SSS are not the retirees. They have paid their dues and are making do with their niggardly pensions. Neither are the private sector employees. They are too busy earning a living and raising a family. Neither are the self-employed who have volunteered to become members; they are simply too few.

The biggest stakeholders of SSS are the employers. Their counterpart contributions are pure expense. They get none of the money back. Then, for being members, employers incur extra administrative work. They collect the employees' contributions and remit them to SSS together with the employers' counterpart. If an employee takes out a salary loan, the employer becomes the collecting agent of the monthly payments.

Failure to collect and/or remit the contributions is treated under the law as if the employer is a tax evader, subject to the same penalties under the tax code.

Until 1997, the contribution of 8.4 percent of salary was shared equally between the employer and his employee. Then, from 1998, the employer's share rose to 60 percent of contribution. Early this year,.the total contribution was raised to 9.4 percent of salary, the additional one percent being borne entirely by the employer. As a result, the employer now pays almost 65 percent of the contribution, or 6.05 percent of salary.

When you take into account that salaries are usually no more than 30 percent of an employer's overhead, 6.05 percent of salary translates into a little over 1.8 percent of overhead. This may be the reason for the general apathy of employers towards what is going on at SSS.

The employer's share may be small but, in the current economic crunch, one of the nagging problems at SSS is that many employers are way in arrears with their remittances. Consequently, there are several bills in Congress proposing to declare amnesty on these employers.

However, in absolute pesos and centavos, the employers' total contributions are not chicken feed. In 2001, employers' contributions for social security (and employees compensation which SSS also manages) reached P19 billion, not to mention employees' contribution of P12 billion. When this kind of money is entrusted to a government agency like SSS for the benefit of the employees, should not employers see to it the money is well managed?

If so, then employers have a lot to worry about. Total assets (there is a lot of paper losses in these assets) are dwindling and, as a result, reserves are shrinking. Investment income is shaky. Books of accounts are being juggled to improve the bottom line. Contributions are no longer enough to pay for benefits. And yet, operating expenses continue to soar.

By law, Donald Dee of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines and Sergio Ortiz Luis of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry represent the employers in the SSS board. But they have been unable to protect the interests of their constituency.

Now, SSS is making some noise about another increase in contributions. How will this additional money be managed? Will it just go down the drain?

What should the employers do? The employer's associations and chambers of commerce seem to be worried over other things. Maybe the country's biggest employers –San Miguel, Ayala, Meralco, PLDT, etc.—who contribute the most to SSS, should start stirring. Since they will never get their money back, their complaints will be most credible. Besides, they have the moral obligation that the money they entrust to SSS for the future benefits of their employees is managed at the highest professional level.

This movement will have to start, not from the human resources departments, but from the very top of the executive hierarchy. Will some white knight come forward, please?

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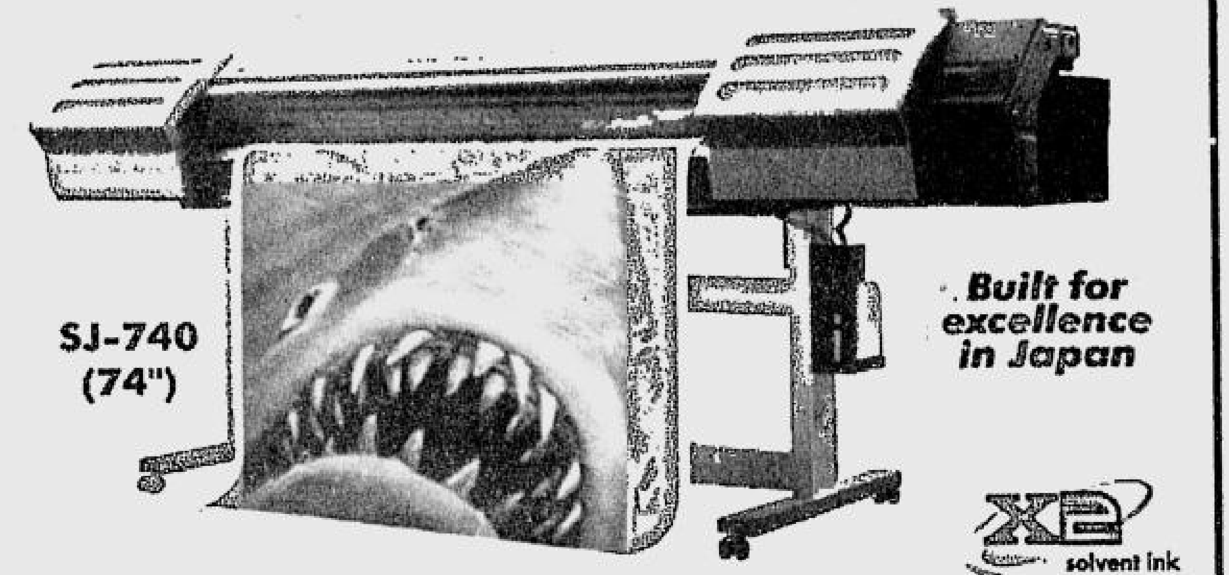

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September 2003

Gin case a matter of principle, says GSMI

THE LEGAL bid of Ginebra San Miguel Inc. (GSMI) to secure protection for the Ginebra brand goes beyond the battle for market share in the lucrative gin market, said GSMI legal counsel Gilbert Reyes of the Poblador, Bautista, Reyes Law Offices.

Reyes said the suit filed by GSMI against rival Tanduay Distillers Inc. "is a matter of principle since the issue involves significant consumer interest."

GSMI recently filed a suit against Tanduay for unfair competition and infringement arising from the latter's use of the brand name Ginebra in its Ginebra Kapitan product.

GSMI claims it is the exclusive owner of trademarks that use the word "Ginebra" as the dominant feature. Due to its extensive and continuous use of the word, GSMI said the mark "has been associated by the public exclusively with GSMI's gin product."

This is confirmed by independent surveys and market research, GSMI says.

Reyes said the legal action was filed "to protect the large gin market from being misled into thinking that what they are buying is a GSMI product." He said the company was concerned over the possibility that a lot of gin drinkers could actually believe that other products sporting the "Ginebra" name in their labels are manufactured by GSMI or are variants of the authentic Ginebra San Miguel product.

This is unfair to GSMI because other products are benefiting from the rich heritage of Ginebra San Miguel and from the significant investment already made by the company in the enhancement and promotion of the brand, Reyes said.

"But it is even more unfair to the gin market since buyers could be misled into spending hard-earned money for the purchase of a product which they thought are manufactured by GSMI," he explained.

Inflation seen to stay at 3%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INFLATION rate is expected to stay at about 3 percent in September as no supply and demand factors are seen to put pressure on prices this month, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the National Economic and Development Authority.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, however, opted to stay on the safe side by projecting a range of 3-3.5 percent inflation rate for the month given the continued weakness of the peso.

A weak peso is inflationary because more dollars are changed into the local currency. However, despite the peso's volatility in August, the inflation rate remained at 3 percent during that period.

Inflation reflects the rate of increases in the prices of goods and services. As the inflation rate goes up, the consumer's purchasing power declines.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said he believed that the inflation rate this month would stay at about 3 percent although he said the central bank has yet to come up with an official forecast.

"There were no unusual events in September that could affect prices. There were neither a typhoon nor fuel price hikes. I think there was no demand or supply shocks to factor in this month," said Neri, who is also the director-general of the National Economic Development Authority.

In the first eight months, the inflation rate remained way below the 4.5 to 5.5 percent ceiling for the year.

Neri earlier said the central bank had requested the Development Budget Coordination Committee to keep the inflation target at 4.5 to 5.5 percent this year in view of the peso's weakness in recent months.

The peso remained at the 55 to $1 level and closed at 55.16 to $1 last Friday. The central bank, however, stressed that the local currency would likely average at P54 to $1 this year.

The BSP earlier said it would review its 3-percent full-year outlook on inflation to consider the impact of severe typhoons that damaged farm products and raised food prices last August.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, said earlier that despite the review of the inflation estimates, the Monetary Board would likely keep its overnight rates unchanged for the rest of the year.

A benign inflation outlook had prompted the central bank's Monetary Board to cut its policy rates by 25 basis points last July 2 to its lowest level since May 1992.

But a volatile peso led the monetary authorities to scrap the tiering scheme last month to encourage banks to park their funds with the BSP instead of using it to buy dollars in the spot market.

CebuPac seeks Japan flight entitlements

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE Cebu Pacific Air is still appealing for flight entitlements to Japan, the Civil Aeronautics Board is already saying that the Gokongwei-owned airline has more flight entitlements than it can manage.

Cebu Pacific has filed an appeal for the Japan entitlements after the CAB gave rival company Philippine Airlines Inc. all of the 4.5 coefficients that the Philippine panel got during the air talks with that country last year.

Japan is considered a lucrative destination, so PAL plans to expand its operations there while Cebu Pacific wants to take advantage of the market by mounting flights there.

But a highly placed source said Cebu Pacific should first acquire the necessary aircraft and fully use its existing entitlements before clamoring for more destinations.

The source pointed out that the Gokongwei-owned airline had been granted entitlements to Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, China and the United States.

However, he said Cebu Pacific has yet to start flying to these destinations. Right now, Cebu Pacific flies international only to Hong Kong and South Korea. It has suspended its Singapore flights due to low load factors.

"It is not accurate to say that we're depriving them of entitlements or that we're preventing them from expanding. They have many pending entitlements. They have more than they can chew," the source said.

In an interview, Cebu Pacific vice president for corporate planning and external affairs Peggy Vera said the airline had asked the CAB for two entitlements to Japan.

Instead of splitting the entitlements between PAL and Cebu Pacific, however, the CAB opted to grant all the new Japan entitlements to the Lucio Tan-controlled PAL.

EU lifts ban on aquaculture exports of RP

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE EUROPEAN Union has lifted the ban on Philippine aquaculture exports, consisting mainly of prawns, milkfish and tilapia. With this development, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said exports of these products to EU countries would likely resume next month.

In a memorandum, the EU Embassy had informed local authorities of the EU's decision to reaccredit the Philippines as an "authorized" exporter of aquaculture products, BFAR Director Malcolm Sarmiento said in an interview.

Sarmiento said that in a meeting held on Sept. 17 in Brussels, the EU members voted to lift the ban imposed on Philippine aquaculture products following the government's immediate submission of and compliance with all the additional requirements asked by the EU.

"These included the acquisition of facilities and sophisticated equipment that are capable of detecting traces of harmful chemicals and banned antibiotics," noted Sarmiento.

As an initial step, Sarmiento said that the DA-BFAR has already acquired an ELISA reader equipment, which can detect the presence of nitro furans—a chemical substance banned by EU on its aquaculture exports.

Also, BFAR had already instituted a food safety protocol against harmful substances by requiring fish farmers to produce health certificate clearances in both on-farm monitoring and product testing prior to the export of the aquaculture products, he added.

He noted that the country's major processors of aquatic products, including cold storage and freezer vessels involved in the export business were already compliant with the HACCP (Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points) mechanism that summarizes major product standards imposed by major importing countries such as the US, EU and Japan.

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RP to adopt conservative stance in Apec meet

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT will take a conservative stance in the 11th Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in Bangkok, Thailand on Oct. 20-21.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas said the country would continue to oppose liberalization proposals that would be deemed detrimental to local industries.

"Trade must foster development rather than widen the divide between rich and poor countries. So in Bangkok, we will ask that the Apec forum to address the needs of the poor countries through cooperative trade partnership with rich countries," said Roxas in a statement.

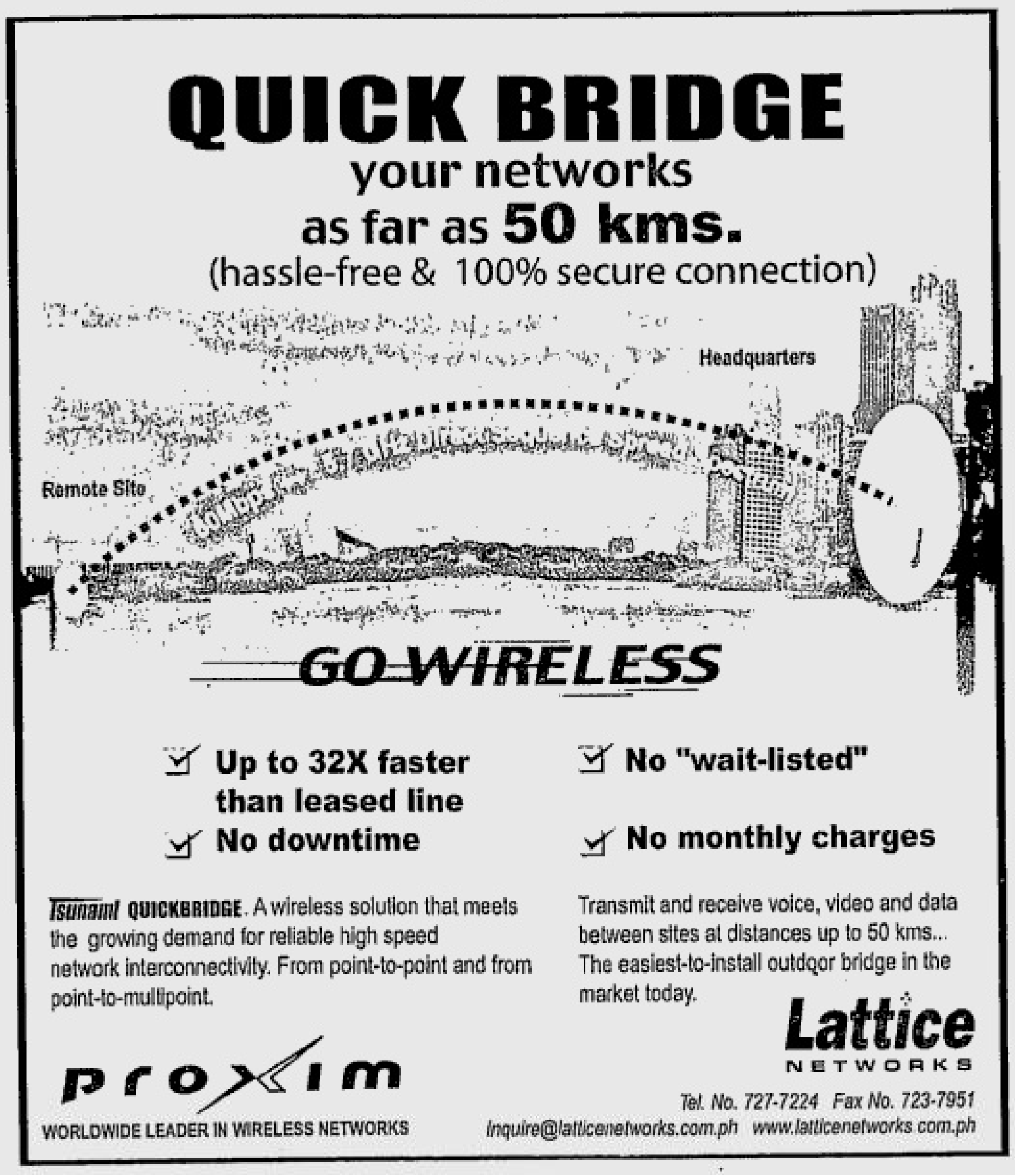
Roxas said that in the coming Apec meeting, the government would make sure that the development of domestic industries will be supported first before committing to any new trade proposals that will be laid on the discussion table.

In preparation for the Apec meeting, representatives of member-countries have already undertaken initial discussions during a series of meetings in Thailand last February. This year's Apec meeting will focus on enhancing trade coordination among countries, and between Apec and external institutions like the WTO, Roxas said.

Roxas said discussions in the coming Apec meeting would also center on the progress of the Shanghai Accord—which covers talks on trade facilitation, counter-terrorism and secure trade with the Apec region; contribution to the enhancement of the WTO; transparency standards, and development of small and medium enterprises.

The other agenda, said Roxas, included the implications of regional trade agreements (free trade deals among countries in a specific region) and free trade agreements (bilateral trade deals) on Apec member-countries, and the assessment of the results of the recent round of WTO talks.

"This year's Leaders' Declaration (for the Apec meeting) is expected to be succinct, visionary and leader like. Apec members have agreed to exercise discipline and self-reliance in proposing language for the Declaration," said Roxas.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New projects lined up in Global City

FOLLOWING its purchase of the controlling stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC), the Ayala-Campos Group said it would soon launch a series of projects that will revive the momentum of development at the Fort Bonifacio Global City, FBDC's centerpiece project.

Envisioned as the most modern business district in the country, the Global City will soon host a new international business district, a 12-ha. residential complex and a new 24-ha.mixed-used retail and sports recreational district, according to Bobby Dy, FBDC's head of commercial operations.

These projects will be in addition to anchor developments, like the super-regional shopping center being developed by Ayala Land Inc., which are about to be completed.

Market!Market! and the other projects are expected to heighten the level of activity in the emerging metropolis now considered the business center most suited to meet the needs of a globalizing economy.

The new projects to be unveiled in the next few months intend to draw more businesses, retail and entertainment establishments as well as residents into this ambitious city of the future. The projects take full advantage of the Global City's easy access to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, its proximity to the Makati Business District and to C-5 and its outlying communities, and its advanced networks and road systems.

The latter includes a telecommunications network supported by fiberoptics for the highest levels of connectivity, more connections to C-5 to open in the next few years.

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Canon [re·al·ize]

GOOD Roots team and local government officials visit a communal nursery of Southern Cuenca Good Roots Association in La Union.

CALTEX PHILIPPINES

Helping farmers improve harvests

By Michelle V. Remo

CORPORATE CITIZEN

FARMERS from Pugo, La Union, believe that their low-paying job will soon enable them to provide more than the usual daily bread for their families.

They are convinced that a few years from now, farming will bring them prosperity through Good Roots, an outreach project that teaches residents of rural communities proper farming techniques that will make their harvests abundant and diversified.

Headed by Dr. Ben Wallace, an American anthropologist who has conducted several researches concerning the environment throughout Asia, and funded by Caltex Philippines Inc., Good Roots had finished the first and second phases of the project: one in Pagudpod, Ilocos Norte, and the other in Lobo, Batangas.

Conrado Bustamante Jr., senior depot manager of Caltex Philippines, said the oil company had agreed to fund this project to help not only the farmers but also the environment in recovering its losses due to human intervention.

Deforestation

With 11 million hectares of trees being cut down yearly around the world, only less than 10 percent are returned. Deforestation rate in the country was placed at 3.3 percent.

"Mankind is the one that creates an imbalance in nature and we can only turn to ourselves to reclaim what we have lost," says Wallace.

According to Antonio Garvida, a forester-agriculturist and staff member of Good Roots, one thing their team have observed is that some agricultural and forestry practices in the country are inimical to the environment.

One that hurts the environment the most is the practice of *kaingin* or slash and burn, wherein trees are cut down and the remnants are burned so that specific plants needed for consumption can be planted on the emptied land.

Garvido says that contrary to the belief that it is a safe practice since land is capable of regaining fertility, *kaingin* hurts the top soil, which may eventually lead to its infertility.

Land's full potential

Another observation is that the full potential of land is not maximized as many farmers plant just one type of crop for their own consumption.

In response to this, Good Roots distributes a variety of seedlings to farmer-beneficiaries, who are taught the proper techniques to plant and care for them.

These seedlings—including those of citrus, fruit-bearing and forest trees—when properly cared for promise to improve the farmers' income.

Planting a variety of seedlings, some of which take short-term (less than one year), medium-term (three years) and long-term (10 to 15 years) growth periods, will give farmers regular harvests.

Farming techniques taught by the Good Roots team, such as grafting and budding, are particularly helpful to farmers since they shorten the trees' growth period to only three years from five to seven years. This increases the farmers' earnings.

Partnership

"Good Roots has helped us a lot. Not only does it teach us how to have better harvests, it also opens to us market opportunities," says Florencio Viernes (in Filipino), a farmer from Pagudpod, Ilocos Norte, who has started to reap the benefits of the Good Roots project.

With the initial success of the project, the Good Roots team intends to expand its reach to other provinces.

The Good Roots project is in line with Caltex Philippines' vision of "becoming a global company most admired for people partnership and performance," says Bustamante.

"After a few years, I believe our barangay will change (to become financially stable)," says farmer-beneficiary Ramon Domede in Filipino.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Herbalife appoints new CMO

WISK

HERBALIFE International recently announced the appointment of Matthew Wisk as chief marketing officer. In this newly created position, Wisk will have overall responsibility for worldwide marketing and branding, as well as marketing programs for the company's 1 million independent distributors who conduct business in 58 countries. He will report to Michael O. Johnson, Herbalife's chief executive officer.

Wisk, a 15-year telecommunications and wireless services marketing veteran, was most recently vice president of marketing for Nokia mobile phones for North and South America. He joined the company in 1994 and brought a number of innovations to the industry, including sports marketing (Nokia Sugar Bowl), youth marketing, associations with the fashion industry, use of celebrity spokespeople and innovative channel marketing programs. Under his leadership, Nokia not only became a household name but also the most considered and preferred brand in the United States.

In 2000, Wisk relocated to London to assume responsibility for the global marketing for a $7-billion division of Nokia, driving the activities of hundreds of marketing and sales support professionals. He helped more than double the third generation market share in just two years, before returning to the United States to lead marketing for North and South America. During his career with Nokia, Wisk was instrumental in securing deals with ABC, College Football, supermodel Niki Taylor, and the Emmys. He is credited with playing a key role in building Nokia into a global leader in the telecommunications industry.

Prior to Nokia, Wisk led the marketing for NEC's fax business. With his help, NEC reached its all-time highest level of market share for cellular and paging business in the United States. Wisk gained his MBA from Michigan State University and began his career with GTE on an executive development program, where his efforts included starting the mobile communications business in Los Angeles, California in the mid-1980s.

"Matt's success in building a brand into a household name is unrivaled," said Johnson. "He has demonstrated that he can take products from the portfolio and create them as icons within the industry. "Matt's outstanding reputation and experience will ensure that we now have the competencies and commitment to turn Herbalife into one of the most powerful global brands today."

"Herbalife is in an ideal position to leverage its significant product portfolio and vast distribution network around the world to create an industry-leading brand," said Wisk. "There is an outstanding opportunity to expand the ways in which Herbalife continues to enhance millions of lives and at the same time re-shape an entire industry."

Wisk was named in the Top Managers of 1999 by Ad Age magazine, and in October 2000, Brandweek's Grand Marketer of the Year. In 2002, Wisk was named Henry Crown Fellow. The Crown Fellow program (part of the Aspen Institute in Washington DC) focuses on shaping future leaders in society that are committed to improving the communities where people live.

Wisk is the latest Herbalife hire brought in as part of Johnson's team to reinvigorate the brand around the world. Previous hires include Henry Burdick as vice chair, and Randy Brogna, vice president of event management and communications.

For 23 years, Herbalife has been a major player in the nutrition and wellness industry with product offerings encompassing vitamins, supplements, drinks and nutrition bars, as well as multiple products for skin and hair care.

ACCOLADE FOR EURO RSCG

Norman Agatep, executive creative director of advertising agency Euro RSCG Philippines, proudly holds the plaque of appreciation that his team received from Procter and Gamble's Zest. The recognition cited Euro RSCG's contribution in making Zest the number 2 soap brand in the local market. Also present during the awarding ceremony were (1st row, from left) Techie de la Fuente, Jocel Adorable, accounts group head, Ed Mapa, strategic planning director, Rachelle Raymundo, account executive. At the back, from left, are Richard Brunton, former senior vice president and account director of Arnold McGrath Worlwide, Thomas Pinnau, Procter & Gamble global marketing director for personal care, Parinda Hasdarngkul, marketing director for personal care, Sumeet Mehta, assistant brand manager for Zest, and Balaji Ramanujam, Zest brand manager. Euro RSCG is the fastest growing ad agency network in Asia, having clinched the second spot from 17th place last year in terms of new business acquisition, according to the latest Asia Pacific agency ranking compiled by Media and R3. Euro RSCG has also been ranked 5th worldwide by Advertising Age.

UPHR president takes oath of office

DR. DAISY Moran Tamayo

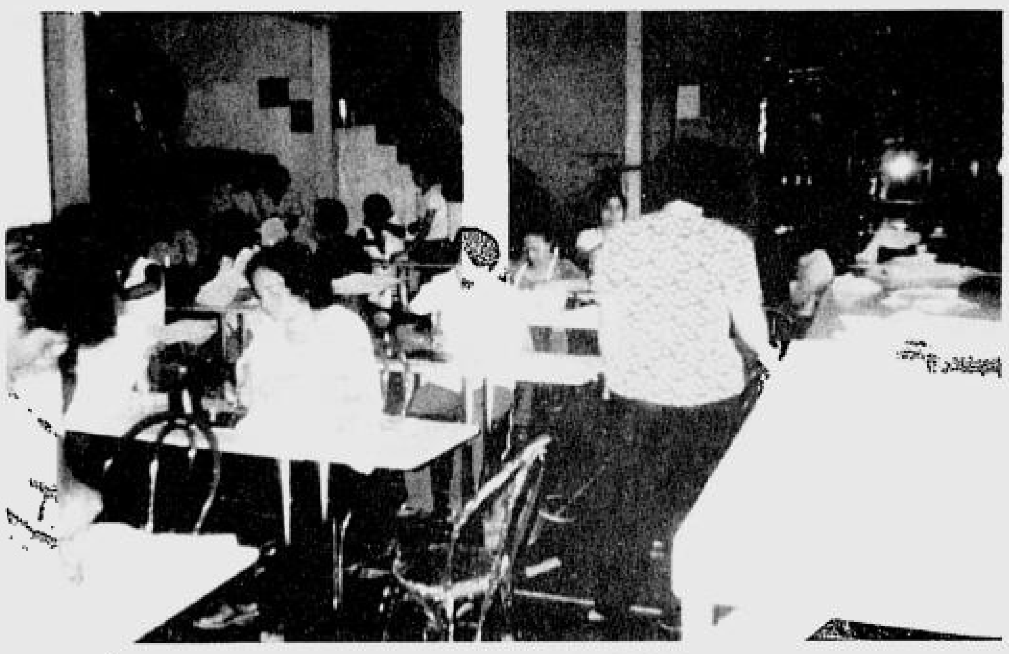
DR. DAISY Moran Tamayo took her oath of office as the second president of the University of Perpetual Help Rizal recently at the Ernesto Crisostomo Hall, UPHR, Las Pinas City. Administering the oath was retired Justice of the Supreme Court Isagani A. Cruz, dean of the UPHR College of Law.

Witnessing the grand occasion were top officials of the schools and hospitals, deans, department heads, officers of the student organizations, faculty members, employees and alumni relations of the University of Perpetual Help System.

Daisy replaces her husband Dr. Antonio L. Tamayo, who is now the president of the University of Perpetual Help System of schools and hospitals upon the demise of his father Dr. Jose G. Tamayo, the grand patriarch of the University of Perpetual Help System.

Tamayo brings to the University a new era of managerial expertise, drawing from her 10 years of experience as former nursing supervisor of the CHED and 27 years as co-founder and a corporate secretary and treasurer of the UPHR.

The new president took her BS in nursing degree from Siliman University of Dumaguete City, her Masteral in Nursing from New York University, and her Doctorate in Organizational Development from the Southeast Asian Interdisciplinary Institute (Saidi).



NESTLÉ CDO LAUNCHES LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM

The Nestle Cagayan de Oro Factory recently launched a Tayo ay Manahi entrepreneurial livelihood development program in coordination with Barangay Tablon officials. Some 20 women were chosen and trained by Tesda and a local beauty and fashion school in livelihood skills, including cutting patterns, sewing hairnets and shoe covers, and making type A rags. The items produced will be sold to the factory.

MIRANT SPONSORS 11TH NATIONAL PR CONGRESS

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) has tapped Mirant Philippines Corp. as sponsor to the 11th National Public Relations Congress to be held from Sept. 24 to 26 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. With the theme 'Building Relationships for a Better World', the event brings together PR professionals, experts and advocates representing various industries and sectors in exploring revolutionary possibilities in the practice of public relations. Shown at the sponsorship agreement signing are (seated, from left) PRSP secretary Carmencita Arce of GMA Network, PRSP Congress chair and Globe Telecom public relations head Jones Campos, APR, Mirant manager for public affairs Greg Romualdez and Mirant corporate communications manager Kim de Leon. Looking on is PRSP adviser Evelyn del Rosario, APR of PLDT.

Sentricon at home tradeshow

SENTRICON, the revolutionary termite elimination system, joins the growing list of exhibitors in the first Urban Home Essentials Tradeshow scheduled on Oct. 3 and 4 at the NBC Tent.

The event offers a wide array of innovative premium products and services through an exclusive gathering of quality exhibitors each with a distinct offering for the urban home. Pest control management exhibitor Sentricon features a systematically effective method eliminating termite colonies that has been tested and documented in the United States, Europe and Asian countries. Sentricon offers the best pest management solution for urban homes.

Other products and services on exhibit are kitchen and audio-visual setups, furniture, appliances and decors, construction, architectural and interior design concepts, computer gaming systems and toys, outdoor gear and home gadgets, security and alarm systems, health and fitness implements, and garden landscape.

For exhibit details, call organizer Digihomes at 771-2054, 771-2055 and 771-2057, or logon to http://urbanhome.servicus.ph, or e-mail info@urbanhome.servicus.ph.

NATIONAL ARTIST SPEAKS TO PALANCA WINNERS

National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almario spoke to an audience of writers and patrons of literature at the recently concluded 53rd Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature where he was guest of honor. In his speech, Almario described to the audience the ever-evolving nature of language and how it reflects the movements of a country's history. The Palanca Awards conferred upon Almario the Gawad Dangal ng Lahi citation. This year's roster of Palanca Award winners was also announced. Flanking Almario are Palanca Awards director-general Sylvia Palanca-Quirino and deputy director-general lawyer Christine Quirino-Pacheco.

MILD SEVEN, F1 CLUB AT THE CRAIC

All roads led to The Craic in Jupiter Street, Makati recently as Mild Seven formally joined the F1 Club, an association of motor sports fanatics headed by MP Turbo's Mike Potenciano. The Craic, a popular Irish pub and regular hangout of expats and sports fans, provided the venue for the F1 Club's Mild Seven-sponsored F1 Trivia Contest, as well as a full viewing of the 2003 Formula One European Grand Prix. After the race, it was time for Mike Potenciano to host the F1 Trivia Game. Ten questions tested the mettle of everyone who fancied themselves knowledgeable in the finer points of Formula One racing. There will be more races and the F1 Club members will be enjoying each one at The Craic. Admission is free. For more details, text or call 0917-8345206.

Math in CRM seminar

THE MATHEMATICS in Customer Relationship Marketing Seminar workshop to be conducted by Meeting Points International (MPI) will be held on Sept 23 and 24 at Dusit Hotel, Ayala Center, Makati City. This unique program is designed to provide participants with new learnings and insights on the essence of customer management and relationship marketing and the impact of efficient CRM in customer retention, fostering loyalty and building long-term satisfying relationships. The program emphasizes on critical measures of response and profitability according to each CRM segments. Full understanding on such mandatory factors as response rates, lifetime value of a customer and the arithmetic (BEA, return on investment activities) that apply to different strata of the account relationship cycle would be provided. Call MPI at 895-5735, 895-2392, or 895-2363. MPI offices are at S-202 Veca Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Estrella Street, Makati City.

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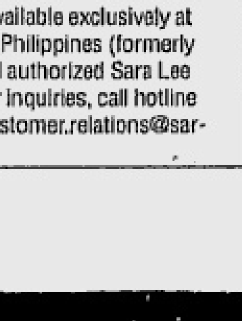

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Clips

Nestlé breakfast promo

A TOTAL of P20.5 million in cash prizes is up for grabs in Mag-Nestlé Almusal...Gising Milyonaryo 2. P3 million was already given away in the Aug. 8 preliminary draw. In the 2nd draw, to be held in different areas from Sept. 3 to Sept. 21, 11 winners will receive P500,000 each for a total of P5.5 million in cash. For the grand draw on Oct. 18, 12 lucky contestants from 9 different areas will receive P1 million each for a total prize of P12 million. To join, write your name, address, signature and the promo title Gising Milyonaryo 2 on a genuine label, foil and boxtop of any participating Nestlé products. Entries can be dropped in designated drop boxes in supermarkets, groceries, and public markets nationwide. See posters or print ads for more information.

'Photography Girls' in fashion shows

THE CANDIDATES for the Miss Photography Girl Philippines 2003 recently met members of the media at a presentation at the Pasig Rain Forest and Water Park. The beauty contest is an annual presentation of the Association of Photo Studios of the Philippines (Apsop). The 20 candidates will also be in a fashion show held in conjunction with Apsop's Photo and Digital Imaging 2003 at Harrison Plaza from Sept. 16 to 30. For more inquiries, call Valerie Rivera at the Apsop secretariat at 887-4151, or e-mail inc_apsop@edsamail.com.ph.

NREA in Urban Dev't Week

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association (NREA) and the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP) lead the celebration this month of "Urban Development Week" with their holding of a joint national conference from Sept. 25 to 27 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila. Covering the period Sept. 24 to 30, the celebration of Urban Development Week every year was approved by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last year under Proclamation 257. Expected as the biggest gathering of real estate professionals and environmental planners, the NREA-PIEP convention is aptly focused on the theme "Global Trends: Urban and Regional Development in the 21st Century". The Civil Service Commission has also accredited the attendance on official time by government development officers or real estate professionals to the convention. For inquiries, call 913-4463 or 912-3492.

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- Hardworking men and women between 18-35 years of age
- With or without work experience
- College education is an advantage but not a requirement
- Conversant in English and Filipino languages
- Must be ready to attend a 3-day orientation and training course

For interview: Come in proper business attire and bring latest resumé and 2x2 ID picture: **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.**

APPLY PERSONALLY AT:

DATE	TIME
September 24 & 25, 2003	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

MAKATI CITY

Look for Mr. Roland Rivera
4th Floor Rufino Building
6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE
Gov. Arsenio A. Quibranza Provincial Government Center
Tubod, Lanao del Norte

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte through its **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)**, invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the completion of the construction of **Three-Storey Provincial Capitol Building (Phase II)**, located in Capitol Complex, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

Application is open to all firms classified and registered with the Inter-Agency Committee as "Large A" in Buildings and Industrial Plants.

Interested contractors who wished to be pre-qualified must submit Letter of Intent and a photocopy of Contractor's License. Contractor's License must be unexpired before Pre-qualification, Bidding, and Award and during the duration of the Project. Only pre-qualified contractors will be invited to participate in the bidding.

Pre-qualification forms will be made available for issuance starting **September 11, 2003 to September 24, 2003** at the BAC office, Provincial Capitol, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). All documents must be submitted and received by the BAC Office not later than **5:00 P.M. on September 30, 2003**. Applicants requiring additional information should forward their queries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
Office of the Provincial Governor
Provincial Capitol, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte
Tel. No. (063) 341-4005 (Dennis)
Fax No. (063) 341-5345

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any or all informalities therein and to make an award who is found most capable in the execution of the work.

(Sgd.) IMELDA QUIBRANZA-DIMAPORO
Provincial Governor

(PDI - September 8, 15, & 22, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites **G-EPS registered suppliers** to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **National Food Authority (NFA) IT Equipment**

The approved budget for this contract is P4,800,000.00.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-bid Conference that will be held on **Tuesday, September 30, 2003, 9:30 a.m., at the PS Conference Room, Room 207, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the PS-PURCHASING DIVISION starting September 15, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the **Office of the Operations Manager** at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **OCTOBER 16, 2003 at 9:30 a.m., THURSDAY.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. 561-6098 or 563-9402.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI - Sept 15 & 22 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Globe Telecom stock certificate nos. 80643 for 47,431 shares and 30555 for 3,696 shares in the name of O.T Kang Scholarship Foundation, Inc were lost as per Affidavit of Loss executed by its President, Mr. Bienvenido A. Tan, Jr. per doc. no. 345, page no. 70, book no. I, series of 2003 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Christine A. Tomas of Makati City.
(PDI-Sept. 15, 22 & 29, 2003)

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In Memory of our Beloved

RAMON ALMAZAN LONTOC

Born: July 13, 1958 – Died: Sept. 20, 2003
Who joined our Creator on September 20, 2003 at the age of 45.

His parents Ely & Nicanor (†); wife Lui; children Mabie & Mike, Samantha, Ram, Christine; grandchildren Mika, Isabela; brothers & sister Chito & Marivic, Gary (†) & Agnese, Cynthia & Rey, Norman & Pearlie; nephews & nieces Camille, Charles, Carl, Chris, Clarisse, Dominic, Cara, Calvin, Lia, Tintin & Bianca; aunts, Loding, Onchie, Pining & Dada, cousins and other relatives request the pious readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Sanctuario De San Antonio Chapel, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 25, 2003 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

DEATH NOTICE

ATTY. ADRIANO ESTACIO DACANAY

January 6, 1927 – September 18, 2003

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., Guadalupe, Makati City

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 24, 2003.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

EDGAR "ETAN" MATIAS COMPETENTE

of Tiwi, Albay

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 19, 2003 at the age of 58.

His loving daughter Lulu; brothers Orlando (†) and Corazon, Orfelino and Lucy; sisters Amparo and Florentino Pangan (†), Vilma and Nonito Paeis (†), Patria & Dindo Gutierrez, Thelma & Esmeraldo Velasco (†); nephews, nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Competente Residence at San Lorenzo Street, Tiwi, Albay.

Interment will be today, September 22, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Saint Lawrence the Martyr Parish Church.

CAROLINA GARRIDO RODRIGUEZ

May 18, 1966 – September 20, 2003

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Child, Bonifacio Naval Station (BNS) Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 27, 2003 at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, after a Mass at 9:00 a.m.

ALVIN BILLAN ANG

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace
and Goodness of our Lord on the
18th of September 2003 at the age of 42.

His bereaved parents **Johnson Ang & Jovita Billan**; family members: **Teresa, Hannah, Andrew, Alex & Karyn, Rosema, Anthony, Aldwin, Anne Marie, Aldrich, Auntie Carol, Johnny, Joseph, Tony & Lolita, Manfai, Mei Lan** & family, **Michael**; nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Faith Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 24, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at the Everest Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF RIZAL
MUNICIPALITY OF ANGONO

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

September 3, 2003

Sealed proposals for the New Black and White Aerial Photography, Ground Control Surveys, Digital Orthophotomosaic, GIS Vector Map and Data and Geographic Information System (GIS) located at Angono, Rizal, as described below in accordance with the specifications and requirements thereof and will be received in the Office of the Mayor until 10:00 a.m. on Sept. 29, 2003

1. The proposal should be submitted in an envelope properly labeled and identified which will be publicly opened at the Office of the Municipal Mayor on Sept. 30, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. or thereafter on the same day. No proposal will be accepted after the time set for the closing of the bidding above indicated.
2. A proposal should bond in cash, certified check or surety company bond representing 5% of the amount bid shall be accepted the said proposal bond shall be increased to an amount equivalent to 2.5% of the amount of bid, by cash or surety company bond. A bid that is not accompanied by a proposal bond and not submitted at the time therein set, will be rejected. Bidders bond for this particular bidding only is acceptable. The proposal bond of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned immediately after the result of the bidding has been determined.
3. In case of tie, award will be given to the bidder who first submitted his bid.
4. The successful bidder shall sign a formal contract within five (5) days after receipt by him of the advice of the acceptance of the bid. Failure of the contractor to do so shall be sufficient cause for the cancellation of his bid and forfeiture of his proposal bond.
5. For further particulars, respective bidders may call at the Office of the Municipal Mayor during office hours.
6. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids to leave any defect therein or to accept such bids as maybe considered most advantageous to the government.

ATTENTION IS INVITED TO COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 138 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FLAG LAW TO WHICH ALL BIDDERS ARE AMENABLE.

NOTE: BIDDERS should present their corresponding licenses before bidding.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) HON. GERARDO V. CALDERON
Municipal Mayor

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Region 10, Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City
e-mail address: r10@denr.gov.ph; Tel. No. (088) 856-9066 / (08822) 72-6243;
FAX No. (08822) 72-62-80

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 10 is inviting interested parties to apply for Eligibility and to Bid with the Module Survey Projects of various Barangays in the Province of Bukidnon, to wit:

Location	AREA (HAS)	UNIT COST / HAS.	COST OF CONTRACT PRICE	COMPLETION TIME	SCOPE OF WORK
1. Freedom, Cabanglasan	300.00	1,440.00	432,000.00	60 days	Sketching Monumenting, Lot surveys of the whole area and preparation of complete survey returns for verification and approval
2. Nakabuklad, San Fernando	360.85	1,440.00	519,624.00	90 days	
3. Manalog, Malaybalay	92.20	1,440.00	137,088.00	30 days	
4. San Miguel, Danatag, Lingating, Baungon	325.00	1,440.00	468,000.00	80 days	
TOTAL	1,078.05		1,556,712.00		

The project is funded by the Department of Agrarian Reform Asian Development Bank Agrarian Reform Communities Projects (DAR-ADB-ARCP).

Bid documents may be obtained from the Regional Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat from **September 15-29, 2003** during the office hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) after paying the non-refundable fee of **P300.00**.

The deadline of submission of Letter of Intent and Individual Profile to the RBAC Secretariat shall not be later than **October 6, 2003**.

A pre-bid conference will be on **October 8, 2003** at 9:00 AM., DENR-10, Conference Room, Macabalan Cagayan de Oro City.

The Submission and opening of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial proposals/Bids will be on **October 23, 2003**, 9:00 AM at the Conference Room, DENR, R-10, Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City.

The DENR-10 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer which is considered responsive and most advantageous to the government pursuant to the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO 40.

(Sgd.) VICENTE B. TUDDAO
Chairman
Regional Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 15 & 22, 2003)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
La Union Ilocos Lending Center
Batac Branch

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the purchase on cash basis of the properties listed below will be received at Land Bank of the Philippines-Batac Branch not later than 9:30 AM on October 2, 2003 at which place, date and time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

	DESCRIPTION		MINIMUM BID
1	**REAL ESTATE** Aggregate Area Reg. Owner Shape Topography General Land Usage	TCT Nos. T-2651, T-2455 & T-2456 2,688.03 sq. meters Land Bank of the Philippines Almost Rectangular Flat Residential/Commercial	
	Improvements 1. Convenience Store 2. Boy's Quarter 3. Concrete Driveway 4. Perimeter Fence 5. Residential Bldg. 1 6. Residential Bldg. 2 7. Gasoline filling canopy/Shed 8. Cable Office 9. Concrete Driveway 10. Bus Terminal 11. 2-storey Residential Bldg.	Area – 82.40 sq. m. Area – 27 sq. m. Area – 140 sq. m. Area – 165 sq. m. Area – 50 sq. m. Area — 82 sq. m. Area – 192 sq. m. Area – 40.70 sq. m. Area – 172.25 sq. m. Area – 508.75 sq. m.	P11,269,569.00

The said properties are located in Brgy. Lacub, Batac, Ilocos Norte. Approximately 50 meters southwest of Marcos Museum and about 130 meters southwest of Batac Municipal Hall.
If for any reason the above mentioned date is declared non-working day, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Copies of (1) Invitation to Bid (2) General Conditions on the Conduct of Public Bidding may be obtained from the Land Bank of the Philippines, Batac Branch. Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be "As-Is-Where-Is". The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

LBP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of the LBP shall be final and binding.

DM/OIC FRANCISCO A. PASADO
Chairman
Regional Committee on Bids
And Awards And Disposal of Bank Properties

(PDI--Sept. 20, 21, 22, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu through the Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites qualified Contractors with "AAA" License, and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Large "B" for Buildings and/or Joint Venture groups with the same or more total capacity to participate in a Public Bidding for the Construction of the Sub-structure for the Proposed Cebu Megadome Project located at Quano Ave., and C. D. Seno St., Mandaue, Reclamation Area.

Interested bidders are requested to submit a Letter of Intent and updated Pre-C to the Chairman, Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee, prior to the Issuance of the Plans and Bid Documents.

The contract shall include the complete construction of the said building with a total floor area of around 27,000 square meters.

Including the following Items of Work

Site Development Works
Foundation Works
Concrete Works
Structural Excavation Works
Civil Works

Minimum Equipment Requirement:

Equipment Type	Quantity	Availability
Crane with Diesel Pile Hammer	2 units	Owned
Dump Truck, 5 cu. m. Cap	5 units	Owned
Back Hoe (Crawler Type) 0.5 cu. m. Cap.	3 units	Owned
Payloader	2 units	Owned
Concrete Mixers (Transit – 5-6 cu. m.)	5 units	Owned
Concrete Batching Plant 60 cu. m./hr.	1 unit	Owned
Concrete Pump	1 unit	Owned
Tower Cranes, 10 tons	1 unit	Owned
Mini Vibro Compactors, 1 Ton	3 units	Owned
Hydraulic Telescopic Boom/Crane, 25-30 Tons	2 units	Owned
Rammer, 330 x 220 mm	2 units	Owned
Electric Generators	2 units	Owned
Air Compressors	3 units	Owned
Welding Machine, 300 Amp.	2 Units	Owned
Bar Cutter & Bender, 28 mm. Cap.	2 units	Owned

Dates and Deadline for Submission of the following documents

	Dates	Time	Place
Submittal of Letter of Intent & Issuance of Pre-C	**Sept. 23-25, 2003**	8:00-5:00	PEO
Deadline of Submission of Pre-C documents	**Oct. 03, 2003**	8:00-5:00	PEO
Issuance of Notice to Prequalified Contractor	**Oct. 15, 2003**	8:00-5:00	PEO

Pre-qualified Bidders will be notified on the date of issuance of Plans and Bid Documents.

Set of Plans and related documents can be obtained from the Office of the Provincial Engineer upon Payment of a non-refundable amount of P25,000.00.

The Province of Cebu accepts Bid Securities/Performance Bond in the form of Cash, Managers Check and Bidder's Bond through GSIS only.

The Province of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waives any defect contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) PABLO P. GARCIA
Governor
Chairman, PBAC
Province of Cebu

(PDI – September 22 & 25, 2003)

INFOTECH

E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Leo Magno

Grid computing faces IT industry test

Much-ballyhooed concept of utility computing faces fault-tolerance test from users

By Leo Magno

WHEN enterprise software company Oracle Corp. unveiled this month its Oracle 10g grid computing platform, the company promised around 20,000 people gathered at the annual OracleWorld user convention in San Francisco a "simpler architecture" that would form the foundation of the next generation of computing.

However, as promises of "the next big thing" or "the next paradigm shift" in technology are today as common as viruses, the company instead gave concrete examples of how grid computing can be a viable option outside the scientific community where the concept was born.

Grid computing refers to a group of disparate computers, database servers, application servers, storage devices and applications which are pooled together, connected by high-speed networks and orchestrated by a software management layer. The idea is to serve data, services and applications without the need for the end-user or the database and network administrators to worry about which computer would do the processing and from where the data would be retrieved.

Real world issues

In the real world, however, downtimes occur because servers cannot handle the load and the same data can only be accessed so fast from a single source. With grid computing, the load is balanced across connected servers and storage devices.

Oracle executive vice president Charles Phillips gave online retailing as an example. A website may have high traffic during the Christmas season while the online retailer's data warehouse remains idle. After Christmas in January, the website becomes idle while the data warehouse is used extensively to analyze the online retailer's holiday sales.

"Peak-load conditions shift,' said Phillips. "Today all you can do is buy bigger servers (to handle the load). With grid computing, you can balance the load."

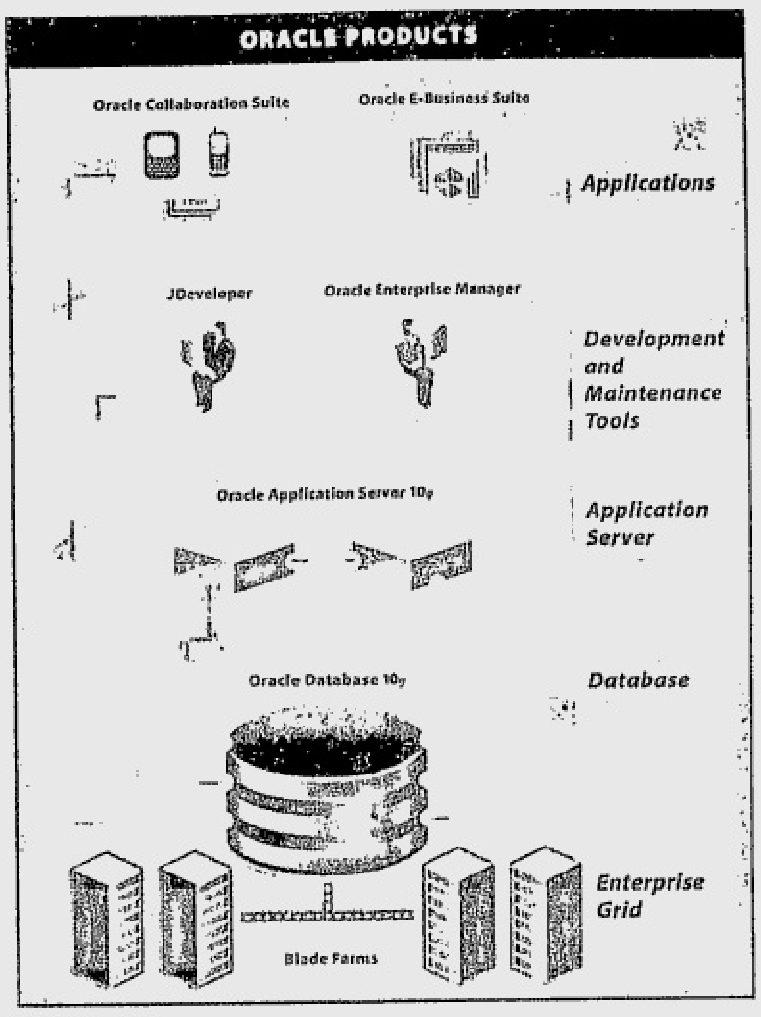
Phillips said there are three main components of grid computing. These are the pooling of resources, the virtualization of every layer on the network and automatic load balancing. As the requirements of the enterprise grow, more servers including inexpensive blade servers running inexpensive operating systems such as Linux can be added. More storage devices can be added, and these storage devices are not tied to a single server but are instead configured as either network area storage (NAS) or storage area networks (SAN).

The result: a grid of clustered computers with access to distributed databases and networked storage that shifts the load to the next available resource.

Own dog food

In the past few years, however, attendees of OracleWorld have been witness to many marketing buzzwords from Oracle and its flamboyant CEO, Larry Ellison. There was the "Unbreakable" theme where hackers were invited to break into Oracle Database Release 9. There was the fault-tolerant "RAC" (real application clusters) that Oracle said would dynamically balance the load of clustered computers. Today, RAC has grown into an even bigger push for Oracle as it becomes an integral technology toward the company's grid architecture.

Phillips admitted that it would take two to three years for the industry to be educated about the grid, so instead of force-feeding the issue at OracleWorld, the company bared beta users of Oracle 10g who are building their enterprise grids.



One such beta user is New York-based Colgate-Palmolive Co., whose main production site in New Jersey and its backup site in Indiana are 90 percent used by the company's subsidiaries worldwide. The consumer goods conglomerate is in the process of creating a grid based on Oracle 10g to connect about 100 databases and 50 Unix servers which its offices worldwide could tap into through high-speed network connections.

Another major beta user is CERN, whose acronym—in English—stands for the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Home of the world's largest particle accelerator, CERN's final grid will involve 70,000 servers worldwide with 20 to 30 main sites eventually sharing 100 terabytes of data. Today, about 2,000 nodes in five sites are already connected.

Another pilot project is being set up at BioMed Central, a biomedical research publisher that allows free access to bioinformatics and genome research. These research materials are rich in graphics and video content and are placed online for more than 300 institutions to access, including such institutions as Harvard University, the World Health Organization and Columbia University. Oracle 10g is used for load balancing and data management.

Yet another Oracle 10g beta user is video game maker Electronic Arts (EA), whose popular SIMS Online game is played by anywhere from 100,000 to 150,000 concurrent gamers. EA is using Oracle Database 10g and Oracle Application Server 10g across a cluster of 18 Linux-based servers.

As expected, Oracle itself is a guinea pig for Oracle 10g. Oracle executives themselves refer to this as "eating your own dog food" to have a proof of concept. Two years ago, Ellison claimed his company saved a billion dollars in one year by using its own Oracle E-business Suite. Today, Oracle claims to be a pioneer in commercial grid computing.

"We've improved our time to market by using our own grid," said Andy Mendelsohn, senior vice president at Oracle. "Our grid now includes about a thousand servers, mostly in the United States. Our development office in India is already on that grid."

Fault tolerance

"It's like six people going on a vacation in two cars," added [illegible] "You can't expect one car to [illegible] people and have the sixth guy drive the second car—unless the other five don't like him that much. Ideally, you'd have three people in each car. Grid computing automatically balances the load across the network and finds the available resources. By sharing servers and sharing resources, the grid is highly fault-tolerant because it has no single point of failure."

Yet, the technology industry will not look for fault tolerance in Oracle 10g alone. With the war on software, communications and hardware standards, the very concept of grid computing itself is being subjected to a test of fault tolerance.

Three such dilemmas in the construction of a standards-based grid the confusion regarding standards for blade servers, heterogeneous hardware and software within the grid and the Globus software for developing grid applications.

A blade server is an independent server on a single circuit board containing one to four microprocessors and one to four gigabytes of memory. It runs its own operating system and applications, but since they are on a single circuit board they can slide into backplanes or racks, enabling organizations to have a blade server farm in a single tower. Increasing the processing capacity becomes as simple as slipping a new blade into a slot in the enclosure or rack.

In an interview with the press at OracleWorld in San Francisco last week, Dell Inc. chair and CEO Michael Dell admitted that there is currently no common blade standard in the industry, and this may hamper the use of blades on the grid. Dell is one of several hardware companies which produce blade servers.

"There has been a reduction in forecasts for blade servers because vendors have not yet agreed on a standard," Dell said. "It's not gonna happen easily and may take a while."

GRID/B15

Seamless upgrade to Oracle 10g for users of 9iRAC

By Gerry Plaza

SINGAPORE—After achieving a strong win rate of 93 percent in its enterprise database deals, pushed primarily by the success of its Oracle 9i Real Application Clusters (RAC), Oracle Asia Pacific projects further growth with the introduction of its database for grid computing, Oracle Database 10g.

"We expect to build on our current performance with the entry of (Oracle) 10g," said Derek Williams, executive vice president for Oracle Asia Pacific. "10g not only provides power, manageability and functionality, it also provides a seamless upgrade path, particularly for our current 9i RAC users."

With the promise of enhanced clustering through enterprise grid computing, 10g would offer the best value for the company's installed base and new users, particularly in the small to medium enterprise market, Williams said in a press conference here.

"In fact, as part of our agreements with our current customers, we offer new products such as 10g as a free upgrade," Williams said. "Current users could enjoy 10g's powerful features without the usual upgrade or migration issues."

Enterprise issues

Oracle 10g, launched this month in San Francisco, offers grid computing as a response to growing issues concerning disparate and inefficient enterprise networks, wherein computing resources are considered difficult to integrate and manage. Using inexpensive and standardized equipment, such as clustered server blades and storage appliances, and automated software, Oracle 10g helps customers reduce time, labor and cost of IT operations by pooling network servers and storage into an infrastructure easily managed and accessed by enterprise administrators and users. With this prospect, organizations need not devote more investments and manpower in maintaining and utilizing database resources.

"We are excited about the entry of 10g in Asia Pacific," Williams said. "It will be a success in driving further growth in all market areas."

Williams said the grid computing product would most likely have easy adoption among nonstop 24x7 business organizations demanding consistency and fault tolerance. However the most compelling feature in 10g is its self-management features that frees up IT staff from day-to-day routine administrative tasks. As such, the IT staff could dedicate more time to business processes rather than mere system administration.

These features eliminate complex, repetitive tasks, such as performance diagnostics, application tuning and memory management. The 10g database includes a self-diagnostic engine that automatically identifies any performance or operational problems and recommends corrective action.

Aside from the 10g database, Oracle also introduced two other products that fall under the company's grid computing line: the middleware Oracle Application Server 10g, which manages applications in a grid computing environment, and the management tool Enterprise Manager 10g, which simplifies and automates the administration of the Oracle enterprise grid.

Selecting cells containing only text in MS Excel

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

WANT to select the cells that only contain text in Microsoft Excel? Here's how:

1) Open MS Excel, type your data

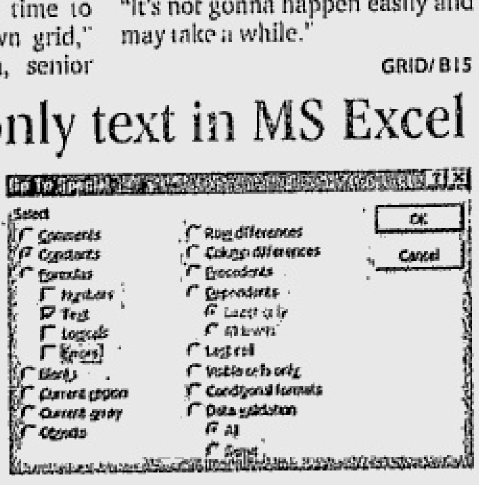
2) Go to Edit / Go To...

3) Click on the Special... button

4) Select Constants then deselect checkboxes Numbers, Logicals and Errors

5) Click OK

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph. For your comments, send your email to infochat@mozcom.com.



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● Constants
○ Formulas
☐ Numbers
☑ Text
☐ Logicals
☐ Errors
○ Blanks
○ Current region
○ Current array
○ Objects
○ Row differences
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Sun Microsystems RP exec quits, moves to Nokia

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

SUN Microsystems Philippines Inc. (SunPhil) general manager Raymund del Val has filed his resignation from the local office of the Silicon Valley-based technology giant and is moving to mobile communications firm Nokia Philippines.

DEL VAL

SunPhil president Cynthia Mamon confirmed Del Val's resignation, saying the executive has resigned but declined to comment any further.

"Yes, we're letting him go to a strategic partner of Sun and SunPhil," she said.

SunPhil is a joint-venture firm between Sun Microsystems Inc. of California and ITH Holdings owned by the Mamon family. Sun Microsystems, founded and headed by Scott McNealy, is a technology pioneer famous for its slogan "The network is the computer."

Del Val himself confirmed the transfer from SunPhil to Nokia. He told INQUIRER that he will be joining the enterprise group of Nokia Philippines and will be involved in the sales of network equipment.

The INQUIRER repeatedly tried to get in touch with officials from Nokia Philippines but they were unavailable for comment.

Del Val is scheduled to leave SunPhil for Nokia by the end of the month. He officially joined SunPhil in November 2002.

Del Val served as general manager of SunPhil after leaving Hewlett-Packard Philippines following the company's merger with Compaq in 2001. He was at the helm of HP Philippines since 1995 until he was replaced by Compaq Philippines head Nilo Cruz, following the announcement of the stock-for-stock merger between the mother firms of HP and Compaq in September 2001.

Del Val was among 15,000 HP employees worldwide whom the company let go following the merger with Compaq.

With 22 years of experience in sales and marketing from companies like Unisys Corp., Digital Equipment Filipinas and HP, Del Val's job included leading SunPhil's sales and marketing team. His responsibilities were to drive SunPhil's sales organization in the country.

Grid computing faces IT . . .

From page B14

The next problem for the grid is the integration of heterogeneous hardware and software from various vendors. Although Oracle claims that this would not be a problem because each component from different vendors would be managed by Oracle 10g on the grid control layer, the harmonious use of software and hardware from different vendors remains a holy grail in most enterprise networks due to a lack of standards.

Carly Fiornia, CEO of Hewlett-Packard, stressed this during her keynote speech at the Oracle launch.

"One of the things we're trying to address in laying out the grid is heterogeneous interoperability and the lack of open standards," she said.

In a separate interview, Dell pointed out the problem with having different flavors of Unix across the grid.

"There really isn't a Unix anymore, there's just Vendorix," Dell said. "Each vendor has its own version of Unix. I think Linux will be the next Unix but you can't expect everyone to use Linux."

Finally, the grid software itself is far from perfect. Oracle's aspirations aside, Globus—the software standard being pushed by the industry to develop grid applications—is still riddled with bugs and is being pulled from different sides by vendors with different interests.

The Globus Alliance is a research project developing technology needed to build computing grids. Globus Toolkit 2.0 is a set of components that can be used to develop grid applications and programming tools. However, vendor interests have stalled the development of the next Globus version.

"Globus 2.0 is still for the scientific grid," said Fiorina. "Globus 3.0 which will be released next month is more for commercial use, but it's a big block of code that's bound to have bugs. We need to address its robustness."

In the end, the users themselves and the information technology industry itself will pass judgment on the grid. And, since Oracle was the first to announce a commercial grid product (actual shipment will be within the year, according to Oracle), all eyes are on Oracle's pilot projects—companies which have signed up as beta testers of Oracle 10g. Whether this would be a standard is up to the industry to decide.

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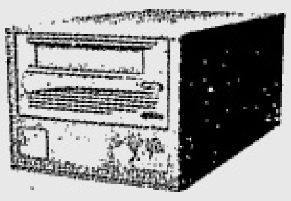
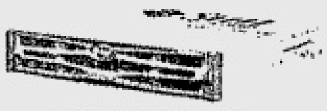
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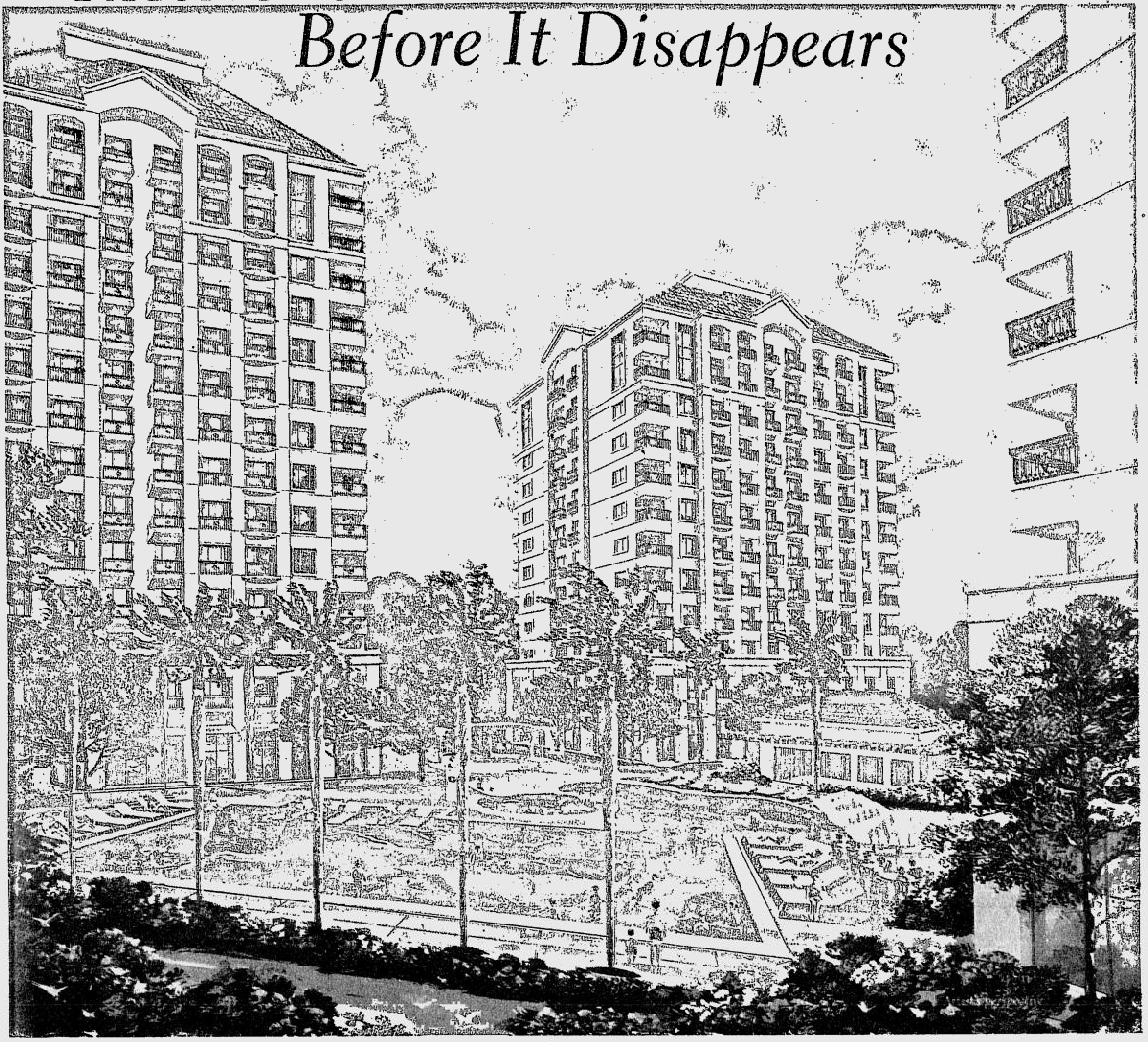

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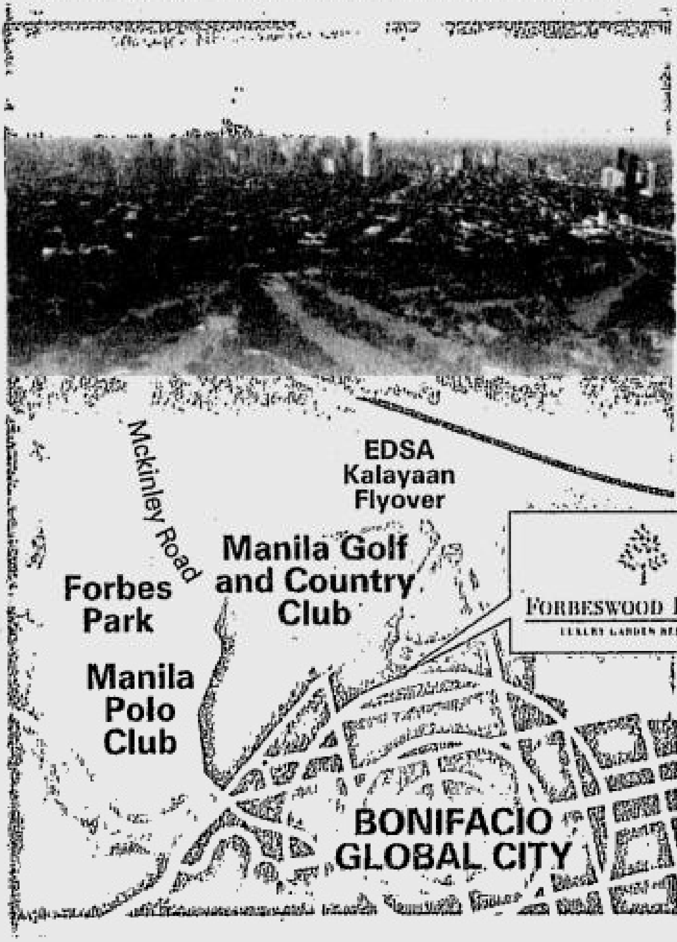
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Camacho sheds Mr. Nice Guy image, slams IMF

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho is shedding his refined image and promises to talk tough as he prepares to slam the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in the upcoming annual meeting sponsored by the two agencies in Dubai next week.

"Most governments have been too polite. I want to be less-than-polite when I give my speech next week and raise some controversial issues," says the finance chief known more for his mild manners than any radical activism.

His beef with the IMF and World Bank: The two multilateral agencies prefer to nag rather than put their money where their mouths are by providing more grants to developing economies like the Philippines.

Camacho describes some of the IMF and World Bank prescriptions as like "a blind leading the deaf." He stresses though that what he would be saying during his speech on Wednesday would be unsolicited advice.

"The Fund and the Bank have a propensity to focus on negative issues which tends to undermine what the governments are trying to do. Most of the time, the governments already know what the problems are and being nagged about them does not help," says Camacho who had often brags that he rarely loses cool and that he only got mad thrice in his life.

CAMACHO

The IMF has often criticized the Philippines for its fiscal deficit and high level of public debt.

In 2000, the IMF cancelled the last batch of a loan after the country's budget deficit reached P136 billion against a target of P62.5 billion. The Philippines concluded the $1.4 billion loan program without drawing the last $300 million.

Camacho points out the IMF and World Bank keep on harping about fiscal consolidation without doing much to help emerging economies achieve it.

"Due to our budget constraints, we need more grants than loans. It is not that we are mendicants but there are certain needs we can't provide especially in the areas of healthcare, education and even infrastructure where they can help and be constructive," says the finance secretary.

Camacho notes he would also make a pitch in behalf of middle-income economies to have a greater allocation of resources than what they were currently getting.

"Funds are going more to low-income economies at the expense of middle-income ones like the Philippines. I think this is not fair considering that we deal with the same issues of poverty," he says.

The Philippines is classified by multilateral agencies as middle-income even as it continues to be battered by widespread poverty and limited government resources.

"We get so much proposals for loans but because of our huge debt, we are having a harder time getting out of the vicious debt cycle. A big portion of our annual budget goes to debt repayment when we should be spending more for education and healthcare," Camacho notes.

The Philippines' outstanding debt stands at about P5 trillion when gross domestic product is

CAMACHO/ B2-2

Partnership for quality

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, U.P. ISSI

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

IT happens all the time—whether you are big or small.

Technologists in an ice cream company botched while processing its new line of frozen delights—interchanging the ratio of sugar to iodized salt or mistaking one for the other. The slipup resulted in an entire batch of salty concoction that dismayed rather than delighted ice-cream lovers. The batch had to be withdrawn from store freezers pronto.

A restaurant had to hurriedly cancel its special for the day—fishermen's chowder—but not before early diners irately demanded replacement for it.The reason: the clams, less than ocean fresh, was vile-tasting.

A recent shipment of wooden angels were losing their wings even before they could be displayed in the shelves of the American craft store that ordered them. Too late, the local manufacturer found that the grade of glue used in assembly was below specification.

Every time a customer complains or returns an unsatisfactory product, every time you see rejects piling up in your plant, when your cost of reworks alarmingly rise, or when you find your stock room filled to the seams with unsold inventory, you know you must have had quality lapses somewhere. The implication is that every time such a lapse happens, your competitor's market share has likely increased—simply because you've lost some of yours.

If your quality methods still consist solely of inspection—to separate the good products from the bad, you have not kept up with the times.

Quality evolution

Quality is a dynamic field. According to Dr. Miflora Gatchalian, University of the Philippines professor and food quality consultant, quality has evolved from (1) mere inspection to conform to specifications; to (2) fitness for use or testing of goods to ascertain whether they meet the end-user's needs; to (3) "human dimensions of quality" where "quality people do quality work," to (4) "quality of work relationships" where quality of work is associated with the quality of work relations; and finally to the current stage of (5) "partnerships for quality, productivity and profitability."

Dr. Gatchalian, who lectures in Total Quality Management at the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) observes that SME managers and technicians are generally oblivious that a quality evolution is taking place. To many of them, quality is served through mere inspection of conformance to specification. In far too many SMEs, quality policy and decisions are centralized on management and every employee is merely expected to comply with these.

Human dimensions

Total quality management puts emphasis on the human dimensions of quality. This implies employee involvement in formulating quality principles, obtaining employee commitment, and continuous training and upgrading of manpower.

Nurturing "human dimensions" of quality necessarily involves the development of approaches to improved personal relationships in the workplace. The premise is that the quality of worklife is positively correlated with the level of employee commitment and work performance. An approach to motivating high performance at work is the promo-

PARTNERSHIP/ B2-2

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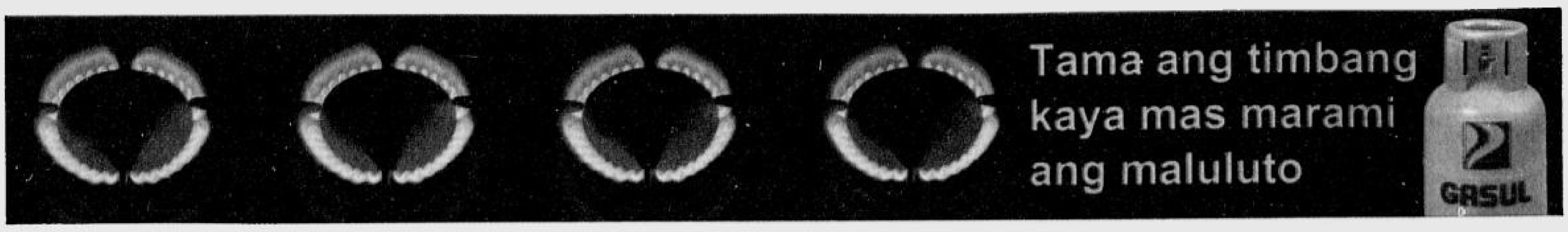

Biometrics ID: effective tool vs. terror

MAPping THE FUTURE

Renato C. Valencia

"FOR terrorists, getting fake ID is simple and cheap, " reports Business Week issue of April 21, 2003. It adds, " A raid on a dingy apartment in Dearborn, Mich., belonging to suspected members of an al Qaeda sleeper cell a few weeks after the (9/11) attacks produced a huge cache of fake passports, Social Security cards, and driver's licenses."

Hambali, a Jemaah Islamiyah leader recently captured in Thailand, was caught carrying a fake Spanish passport.

Clearly, terrorists depend on fake passports and IDs for their clandestine operations, i.e., to hide identities, plans and operations, evade capture, avoid linkages, isolate operation, etc.

Biometrics for ID Systems

One of the most effective tools against fake IDs is biometrics for identification systems.

Biometrics is the analysis and measurement of biological features, such as fingerprint, face, palm, iris, voice, DNA, etc. It operates on the basic principle is that no two persons or living things are alike.

In ID systems using biometrics, fingerprint (scanning and computerized matching) leads the way, accounting for almost 50 percent of the market. Although DNA is supposedly 100 percent accurate, iris almost 100 percent, and fingerprint slightly less than 100 percent, fingerprint has better market acceptance because it is less expensive and less intrusive.

SSS biometrics ID

Fortunately for the Philippines, we already have a biometrics ID system that is up and running. The Social Security System (SSS) has issued biometrics ID to some four million of its members.

This new ID system has reportedly prevented members from registering twice or more. I hear only two complaints: the need to upgrade the system to avoid queuing, and the difficulty of financing the issuance of new IDs. Also, SSS may wish to consider shifting to smart cards if they want to ride on inexpensive, off-the-shelf smart card readers beginning to populate retail outlets.

Requiring biometrics ID for weapons of terror

Weapons of terror are not cheap, such as explosives, guns, operating funds, transportation, safe houses, communications, passports, etc. Only high net worth individuals or companies can afford to buy or use these items, except perhaps for cell phones, some of which have become affordable.

Requiring biometrics ID for the purchase or use of these items should be easy. Government agencies that oversee the purchase or use of these items could very well do this without need for legislation. Of course, legislation could make it easier for them to enforce it.

For example, the SSS biometrics ID may be required for the purchase of explosives, registration of guns and vehicles, issuance of driver's license and passport, as well as opening of bank deposits over the minimum threshold for anti-money laundering. To require IDs for the purchase of cell phones is trickier, but I believe it can be done, if only to avoid cell phone snatching.

Financing SSS biometrics ID

It may not be fair for SSS membership to shoulder the cost of biometrics IDs, if issued only to some sectors, but certainly, those who purchase or use potential weapons of terror can afford to pay for such ID.

If SSS wishes to broaden the issuance of the biometrics ID, it could also consider charging the cost against member loans or benefits.

Fighting terror in the Philippines

We have a reliable SSS biometrics ID system in place, and the proposal is, only those buying or using potential weapons of terror, mostly company representatives or high net worth individuals, will be required to use it.

If we want to fight terror in the Philippines, this is certainly good way to start it.

(The author is vice chair of the Asia Pacific Network Holdings, Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

Bank partners with with 60 merchants for new card

SOME of the biggest names in the commercial and retail industries gathered recently at the Elbow Room of The Podium in Ortigas Center for the launch of a most innovative product in the banking industry.

Unveiled recently was the iDEAL ATM Card from International Exchange Bank (iBank), the country's first ever ATM card that has value-added benefits such as special discounts and privileges from partner merchants that include major stores, hotels, and restaurants nationwide.

iBank president and CEO Ramon Sy with iBank director Greg Yu welcomed about 60 entrepreneurs, business owners and representatives during the launch.

iDEAL also serves as a debit card in Paylink member establishments. It can be used to deposit cash and checks in any of iBank's on-site ATMs, and to pay bills in any iBank or Megalink ATM.

Among the partner establishments are Rustan's Department Store, Abenson Inc., Manila Southwoods Manor, Discovery Suites, Island Cove, Toby's Sports, Boracay Courtyard, Designer Blooms, Rajah Travel Corp., Blims Fine Furniture and many other bars, restaurants, vacation destinations, apparel, electronics, fitness companies.

In full force during the launch were iBank officers and staff led by chief finance officer Antonio Moncupa Jr., executive vice president and retail banking cluster head Nilo Pacheco, executive vice president and corporate banking cluster head Beatriz Barredo-Romulo, executive vice president and human resource management cluster head Buena Chanco and senior vice president William Whang.

La Salle ties up with KPMG for graduate degree

DE LA Salle University-College of Business and Economics (DLSU-CBE) has formalized an agreement with one of the country's leading accounting firms, KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co., (KPMG-LM & Co.), to offer the Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) under the DLSU-CBE Extension Programs.

KPMG-LM & Co. is introducing the MSA courses as part of its Professional Development Program, which aims to inculcate more in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge. KPMG-LM & Co. chair Jaime Laya said in his welcome remarks during the program's launch: "Having better educated professionals is the only way by which people in the company and the industry as a whole can be more competitive." He added that the program is intended to equip the firm's CPA professionals with intensive knowledge and skills that will enhance their competence in rendering quality service to clients.

According to Corazon Subido, chairperson of DLSU-CBE's Department of Accountancy, the agreement with KPMG-LM & Co. is the first extension program offered by DLSU-CBE in partmership with a company.

The MSA Program is available to qualified LM & Co. CPA professionals. DLSU professors and industry practitioners will conduct the academic and other related courses at the KPMG LM & Co. Learning and Development Center at the firm's corporate headquarters in the Makati business district. Subido explains that the program will integrate accounting knowledge with skills in economics, finance, qualitative tools, and information and technology.

Participants who complete the program's 36 required units will earn a Graduate Diploma in Accountancy. A Master of Science in Accountancy degree will be conferred to those who will complete the academic units, written comprehensive exam and thesis.

Camacho . . .

From page B2-1

only at about P4.3 trillion.

The finance chief acknowledges that developing governments, including the Philippines, have to accomplish more to get out of the rut and that the IMF and the WB do not hold the key to turning things around.

"In fairness to the IMF and World Bank, there have been changes going on in these institutions to address the problems. They already know that one formula does not apply to all and lately, there had been increasing decentralization in their operations," he notes.

Partnership . . .

From page B2-1

tion of partnerships, described as "a means to strengthen the collective sense of responsibility among the partners—employer and employee—in the company."

Management must empower its employees, so they are willing to innovate. This can only happen in at atmosphere of freedom and mutual trust. Employees motivated to improve service to customer and a climate allowing them to do is a potent and fortunate combination.

Many quality partners

The partnership for quality does not only involve employers and employee but the customers and suppliers as well.

Total-quality management is customer-driven: customers determine what to design and build. A key philosophy in dealing with customers is that it is they who define what quality is.

Suppliers are no less important. They are indispensable business partners, without which the manufacturer cannot deliver a quality product. Companies must therefore choose suppliers based on consistency in delivering quality raw materials, components and supplies. This means that for an organization to succeed, it must choose suppliers similarly committed to total quality management.

(Catch the UP ISSI's "Total Quality Management" course which will run from Oct. 11 to Nov. 22. Call up Bless Clerigo or Doris Olegario at Tel. 928-7076 to 79 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph.)

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Pryce Care changes name to Intelli*care*

PRYCE Care, one of the leading Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) in the country, announced recently the change of its name to Intelli*care* and unveiled a new logo reinforcing the evolution of the company from a service provider to a dynamic healthcare partner of a various corporate and individual clients.

According to its president Mario M. Silos, Intelli*care* is now an HMO brand name under its new holding company Asalus Corp. "For the past eight years we have focused in achieving our avowed mission to provide available, accessible and affordable healthcare benefits to our members. As Intelli*care* maintains its corporate identity through this commitment, we are now ready to enter the next phase of our corporate development. For the immediate future, we are already building alliances with strategic partners to diversify our health-related business interests."

Silos adds,"All Pryce Care contracts will be honored until replaced by Asalus contracts. Pryce Care membership cards will be accepted in accredited hospitals and clinics and by affiliated medical practitioners and dentists nationwide until its expiry date."

The new Asalus Corp. logo is designed with the famous Leonardo Da Vinci's "Vitruvian man" to symbolize the medical nature of the business and man as the focus of the company's innovative healthcare programs. Asalus has been derived from the Latin word "salus" which means health or well-being.

The new Intelli*care* logo represents the branch of a plant as it sprouts upward to seek the nourishing rays of the sun. It carries the tagline "your intelligent health choice."

The colors blue, green and white have been applied to both of the logos for they represent stability, growth and integrity.

Aside from its new corporate name and logo, the company has also transferred to a larger office located at the 7th floor, 108 Feliza Bldg., V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Tel. No. 8943386, Fax-8942135. email info@intellicare.com.ph.

Intelli*care* ranks among the top five in the HMO industry. It has an excess of 200,000 members, 1,000 corporate clients, more than 5,000 affiliated medical practitioners/dentists and 350 accredited hospitals and clinics nationwide.

Potent employee . . .

From page B2-4

chair Merle Martinez. "More importantly for most of the members, the coop really boosted their confidence in their own talents and abilities."

Starting Aug. 15, Home Front has been showcasing specific product lines for two-week periods. The coop holds a monthly payday sale and a quarterly *tiangge* in Meralco.

Echo seminars

The technical knowledge is being multiplied and shared. The coop members have conducted free livelihood trainings for other dependents who did not participate in the earlier sessions. This is known as the seminar series "Dagdag Kaalamang Pangkabuhayan" (A Livelihood Capacity Building Training).

With the support of Meralco's Corporate Social Responsibility Office, the seminar series was launched at the company's 7th housing project in Marilao, Bulacan. More than 50 dependents and retirees joined the first three modules on basic and advanced meat processing, candle making and bead art.

"This has been a long time dream of the coop members—to be able to share the skills they learned to other Meralco dependents," says Baby Deyto, staff of Meralco's Corporate Social Responsibility Office. "The participants were very thankful to have a livelihood skills training within their village and they were all very eager to learn. They don't often get opportunities like this where they can attend a seminar for free and they don't have to go far or enroll in a school. It is conducted right there in their village."

The participants are encouraged to join the coop after completing at least one seminar module. Deyto points out that opportunities open to them when they join the cooperative. They are already assured a marketing arm for their products. *Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>*

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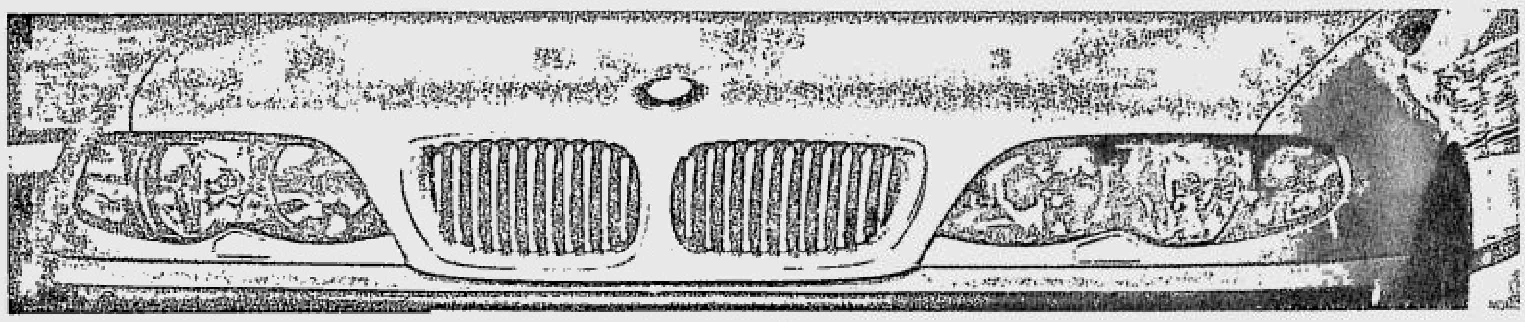

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OPEN FOR FRANCHISE

How do you eat fruits at a formal dinner?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

AFTER the meat course has been served, you will be given dessert. This is the most common flow for a formal dinner. However, bear in mind that for continental or European service, salad is served after the meal. So do not be surprised if this is done. For American service, salad is served as a first course prior to the main course or the meat course.

Salad is a bit tricky to eat. The standard rule is that lettuce should not be cut but folded. Most places serve the salad with the lettuce already cut into bite size pieces, in which case all you need to do is push the lettuce on the fork with your knife and begin to eat. However, if the lettuce is served in large pieces, I would suggest cutting it with your knife, as you go along. The important thing to remember is that you should not toss and cut up your salad once it is served to you.

Dessert is taken with either a spoon or fork. You will find your desert utensils on the section of your setting that is on top of your plate. Spoons are set with the stem facing right and forks are set with the stem facing left. Should fruit be served, this will be done so before the sweet dessert. Fruit is usually eaten with a fork and knife when at a formal dinner. Dessert wine may also be served during this time. Dessert wine is sweet wine that is served chilled and meant to be taken with fruit and pastries.

Eating fruit with a fork and knife is one thing I enjoy demonstrating when I give classes on etiquette. I will try to guide you through it now on paper.

Bananas

Take your fruit knife and slice the banana stem. Take the banana with your hands and place it on your plate with the curved side facing you. Take the fruit knife and the fruit fork and slice both ends, push it aside. Puncture the banana skin lightly with your fork so that it doesn't roll around your plate. Take the knife and slice through the skin on the segment. Do not slice all the way, only slice out the skin portion. Then with your knife, gently peel the banana. This is called undressing the banana. Roll out the fruit on your plate and keep the peel on the side of your plate. Then you cut and eat each slice at a time.

Apples

Put an apple on your plate. With your fork and knife slice the apple in half. Then take the first half and slice it into a quarter. Take the quartered piece with your fork and then peel it with your knife. The trick to peeling is that you should position the knife towards you using your second finger and thumb to control your movements. Then you cut and eat the apple as you go along. Repeat the process with the remaining quartered slice then you proceed to do the same with the other half.

Oranges

This is tricky and a bit difficult to explain. After placing the orange on your plate, take your fork and knife and cut it in half, as if you were making juice. Then puncture the half and cut it into a quarter. Then slice it into an eighth. After which, with your fork punctured into the top most section of the fruit, you take your knife and go below the fruit to separate the fruit from the skin. Then eat. Again, you do this one piece at a time, you cannot slice the whole fruit at once, then rest, then eat.

After the dessert has been served you will be served coffee or tea. Along with this or petit fours will be served as well. Brandy or Cognac is served after as digestives.

(Email your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com)

Potent employee benefit: Livelihood cooperatives

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

COMPANIES may want to hike the pay of their employees, but they may not yet afford any adjustments. How then can they improve the lot of their workers given budget constraints? One means is to help the employees' kin create their own jobs.

This is where firms can tap the magic economics of knowledge. If an employer gives his worker a piece of land, the former no longer owns it. But if he trains the employee in say, auto trouble-shooting, both parties get to possess the said skill.

Multiplying livelihood knowledge

Even better, knowledge is multiplied. Suppose a worker pays P5,000 to attend a seminar on auto trouble-shooting. Armed with that knowledge, he shares it in an echo seminar for 20 people. The value of that knowledge investment has ballooned to P100,000.

So companies would do well to help their employees by sharing knowledge—specifically skills that help them create their own livelihood. But it is not enough to just train people. They should be organized so that they can market their products as a long-term enterprise.

One example is a cooperative set up for family members of Meralco employees.

The Meralco Dependents Livelihood Multipurpose Cooperative (MDLMC) is composed of family members of the firm's employees. The members are all graduates of the utility's Livelihood Skills Program. The coop was registered in 2002 with an initial capitalization of P600,000 divided into 300 common shares. There are more than a hundred members.

Seminars

The coop's main business activities are meat processing, candle making, bakery products, bead art accessories, flower arrangement and other crafts. Members work at home and sell their products to the coop. The cooperative markets the products at its stores, deriving income from the mark-up on goods. Non-members are also welcome to market their products in the coop stores.

MDLMC was founded in February last year by a group of Meralco employee housewives who had completed at least one livelihood course offered by the company for free. The seminars were conducted for employees' spouses, children, parents and other family members to equip them with skills to help augment their income.

Coop for marketing

The group's first major project was a stall in Power Plant Mall called Home Front where shoppers could buy the coop's products.

The stall sells a wide variety of products, like bead accessories, eyeglass holders, key chains, and ID lace holders. They are now into scented and decorative candles, bath soap, and liquid body soap.

"Aside from the monetary benefits, the coop gave us a reason to develop our creativity and entrepreneurial skills," says coop

POTENT/ B2-3

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

BY REQUEST. The Broadway star has been asked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to sing for the American leader. JOEL SOL CRUZ

Lea Salonga to perform for Bush

It's her 3rd US president, after Clinton and Bush dad

By Marinel R. Cruz

BROADWAY actress and singer Lea Salonga will sing for US President George W. Bush in Malacañang when the American leader dines with President Macapagal-Arroyo during his eight-hour Manila visit next month.

Lea flew back to the United States last Sept. 16 to prepare for her wedding in January 2004, following her sell-out concert at the PICC Plenary Hall in Manila last Sept. 12 and 13 (*Related story on Page C2*). But she is expected to return next month to perform during the Oct. 18 state dinner for the visiting US president, according to a source close to Lea.

It will be the third time for Lea to perform for an American president. The first two times were for the older President Bush, the incumbent US president's father, in Washington in 1991, and for Bill Clinton in Boston in 1994.

Lea has also sung for, among other world leaders, Queen Elizabeth II of England, and for former US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton during the Women's Forum of the Asian Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) in Manila in 1997.

Following her "Songs From Home" concert at the PICC, Lea left Manila last Sept. 16 on board a Philippine Airlines flight to Los Angeles, to take charge of the preparations for her wedding to Chinese-American businessman Robert Chien on Jan. 16 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in L.A.

The US-based singer, who originated the title role in "Miss Saigon" at the West End in London and on Broadway, stayed in Manila for almost three weeks to prepare for "Songs From Home" and for a TV special on the wedding, which will be shown on Philippine TV three weeks after the wedding.

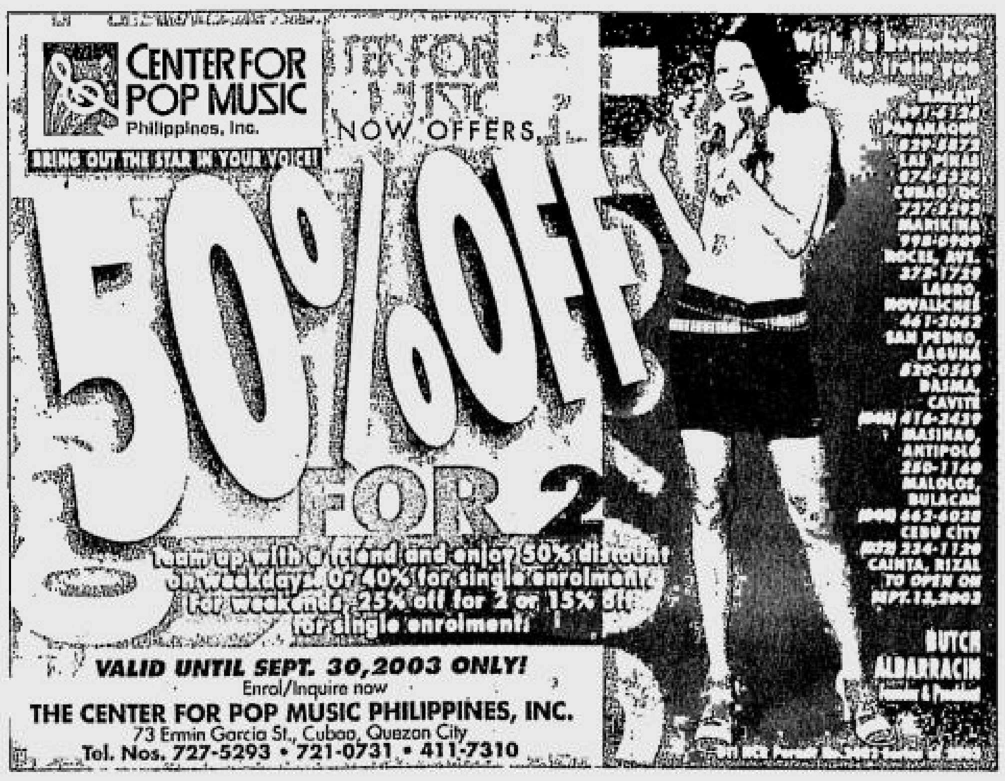
"Robert and I respect each other's work," Lea had said during the press lunch for her PICC concert. "We both know how important our careers are to each other. That's probably why we never argue about it."

Robert, who is based in L. A., specializes in customer relations technology.

The wedding special will include a feature on the day Robert proposed to her, as well as her bridal shower and Robert's stag party in Las Vegas. Theater director Bobby Garcia is directing the wedding special for TV.

TWIN'S half Greg Turvey JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

In Greg's topsy-Turvey closet /C5



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Lea like you've never heard her before

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

REVIEW

WARNING: This article contains superlatives. Those who are not fans of Lea Salonga should ignore it. Those who admire Lea, read on!

Rarely do her own countrymen see Lea perform live onstage in her own country. The last time she did a show in Manila was in June 2002 at the PICC Plenary Hall. Prior to that, she was in Manila in late 2001 to do the first three months of "Miss Saigon" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Last Sept. 12 and 13, Lea returned to the PICC for "Songs from Home," which surprised many of her fans who have been used to watching her sing Broadway for more than a decade now. In that latest show, the former "Miss Saigon" star did tunes she had never sung before.

She rocked to Mike Hanopol's "Laki sa Layaw, Jeproks" and danced to Sampaguita's "Bonggahan." She also crooned Eva Eugenio's jukebox hit, "Tukso," and Dulce's winning piece in the Asian Song Festival, "Ako ang Nagwagi," which earned Lea a standing ovation from its original singer, who sat on the front row (with her talent manager Angie Magbanua).

Lea delighted her audience in the two-and-a-half hour show, with no back-up singers or dancers. There was nothing spectacular in the rest of the show—no dazzling stage, no high-tech gimmicks or state-of-the-art devices. It was only Lea on stage and her remarkable voice, accompanied by the 50-member Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, with her equally talented younger brother, Gerard, as conductor and musical director.

Mesmerizing

Following the rousing overture, Lea sauntered onstage in a turquoise gown by Rajo Laurel as she sang Aiza Seguerra's monster hit, "Pagdating ng Panahon." (She later had two costume changes, also by Rajo, including a dramatic white kimono with extended sleeves and a black obi). Then she segued into the bouncy "Salamat Musika." She certainly knew how to handle a big audience because from her first number to the final strains of her third encore song, Lea left everyone enthralled. Her voice has always been pitch-perfect, but that Saturday night, she sounded even better.

I've watched Lea so many times in the past, both in stage musicals and in live concerts. But every time I listen to her, I couldn't keep myself from being mesmerized by her voice. And she even memorized all her songs. While other live singers would often rely heavily on the tele-prompter for the lyrics, Lea sang more than 30 songs that night, all of which she knew by heart.

I would have understood if she had relied on the monitors, since some of the tunes were older than she, like the Katy de la Cruz original, "Balut Penoy," and "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," the beautiful collaboration by National Artists for Music Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio. But Lea didn't miss any of the words, not even of Yoyoy Villame's novelty hit, "Butchikik."

Her spiels were spontaneous. She probably had to rely on a sequence guide, but she could tell anecdotes or pay tribute to the composers in her own words, all throughout the show.

Proud Canseco

Four concerts were all happening that Saturday night. Martin Nievera was at Onstage in Greenbelt. Canadian singer Michael Bublé had an invitational show at the Meralco Theater. Robert Seña was performing at Music Museum. And the F4's Ken Zhu and Vanness Wu with Barbie Xu were stirring a storm at the Philsports football field. Still, it was a full-house crowd that watched Lea at the PICC for two nights, in the concert directed by the incomparable Bobby Garcia.

She sang Anthony Castelo's "Hahanapin Ko," penned by multi-awarded singer-composer Jose Mari Chan who was seen nodding approvingly on the front row, beside his wife Mary Ann, while Lea sang his song. Then Lea launched into a stirring medley of George Canseco hits recorded by Basil Valdez—"Ngayon," "Kung Ako'y Iiwan Mo," "Kastilyong Buhangin," "Paano ba ang Mangarap" and "Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan." I've never heard those songs sung more beautifully by another performer aside from Lea. A very proud Canseco was also in the audience that night.

After that medley, Lea received thunderous applause, as well as a standing ovation from ABS-CBN's senior vice president for talent development Johnny Manahan, who even raised his arms and bowed his head as he stood applauding Lea.

Beautiful arrangements

Another outstanding medley was of Willy Cruz compositions which were used as themes of dramatic films—"Tubig at Langis," "Kahapon Lamang," "Bituing Walang Ningning," "Pangarap na Bituin," "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas" and "Init sa Magdamag." As well, Cruz watched the show.

Give it to the unrivaled tandem of Lea and Gerard for the brilliant choices in the "Songs from Home" repertoire. A mere wink, a nod or a simple meeting of the eyes was enough for them to tell each other what to do. Gerard also deserves acclaim for the beautiful arrangements. Can you imagine a full orchestra backup to "Butchikik" or "Waray-Waray" and "Galawgaw"?

Lea did Freddie Aguilar's "Anak" in acoustic version. She also gave a new sound to Imelda Papin's jukebox hit, "Isang Linggong Pag-ibig."

'Ocho-ocho,' spaghetti

One of the most applauded portions was Lea's production number with her guests, Ariel Rivera and Ogie Alcasid. It was a treat to see Ariel dancing while the trio did the rousing "Bonggahan," "Bongga Ka Day," "Katawan," "Legs, Legs, Legs" and "Beh Buti Nga."

When Ogie teased Lea that her dance moves were dated, she gamely followed him in doing the popular *ocho-ocho* and spaghetti dance, which thrilled the crowd even more.

Ogie, who had the crowd clapping and cheering at his every move and spiel, took the chance to promote his 15th anniversary concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 10. He did solo spots of "Mr. Suave" and his earlier hits, "Nandito Ako" and "Sa Kanya." With Lea, he sang "Bakit Ba Ganyan."

Ariel was nursing a fever, according to his manager, Boy Abunda, who was also watching that night. But Ariel gave his best onstage, too. He did a duet with Lea of "I Don't Love You Anymore" and crooned his signature ballad, "Minsan Lang Kitang Iibigin."

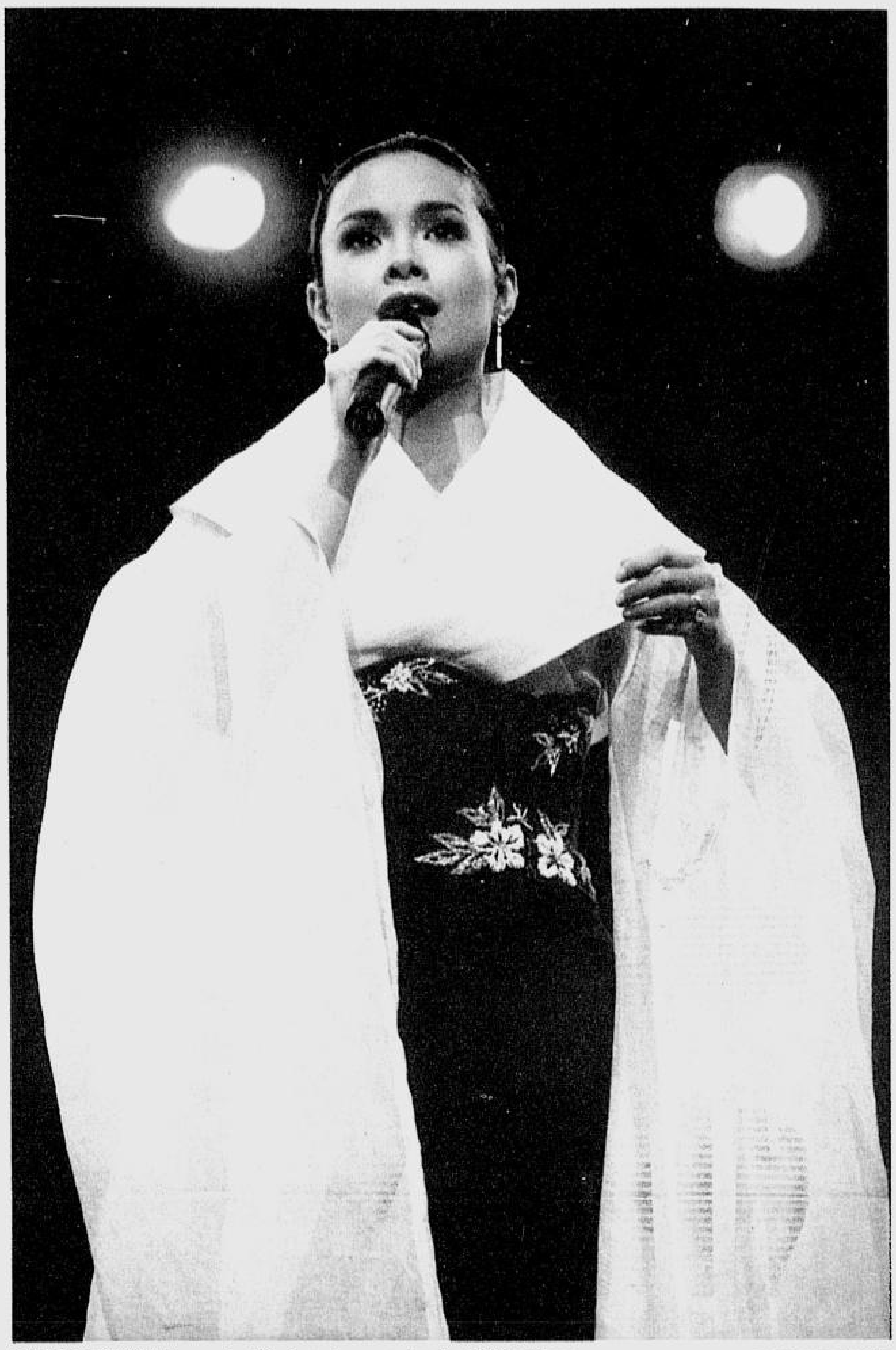
New piece

The crowd wouldn't let Lea go, so she did three encore numbers—"Laki sa Layaw," "Ikaw" and "Balut Penoy." I was told "Balut Penoy" was not even in the repertoire the previous night, and was added only on the second night.

Also in the audience that Saturday night were pop diva Kuh Ledesma, actress Cherie Gil and her violinist husband Roni Rogoff, Dina Bonnevie with her foreigner date, actress Cherry Pie Picache, show biz couple Franco and Ayen Laurel, executives of ABS-CBN led by Charo Santos-Concio and BMG Records Pilipinas.

The only new piece that Lea sang that night was the wedding song that Louie Ocampo composed for her (with lyrics by Freddie Santos) as a "gift" for her forthcoming wedding to Robert Chien in Los Angeles in January 2004. Lea broke into tears toward the last notes of the beautifully written "Two Words." The show's writer, Mickey Muñoz, was also moved to tears while Lea sang.

Lea will record "Two Words" as a CD single, which will be given away as souvenir during her wedding. BMG Pilipinas will do the CD, but not for commercial distribution. If you are a guest at the Lea-Robert wedding, you'll surely get one.



OFF-BROADWAY. Salonga, in a Rajo Laurel, mesmerizes the PICC audience.

PHOTOS BY JOEL SOL CRUZ

SONG AND DANCE. Balladeers both, Rivera (left) also danced, and Alcasid made them laugh.

Lani Hall, Lani Misalucha in the music of Sergio Mendes

MENDES

SHOW TIME

MORE than 30 years have passed since Sergio Mendes shared the stage with Lani Hall as part of Brasil '66.

On Oct. 3 and 4, the pianist-composer performs in Manila, this time with another Lani, Manila's own, the equally talented Lani Misalucha.

Mendes and Misalucha will be performing together at the Aliw Theater in Pasay City.

Mendes will perform his original Brasil hits like "The Trouble with Hello is Goodbye," "Like a Lover," "Put a Little Love Away," "Love City" and "Waters of March."

He will also treat his Manila fans to his renditions of hits by other artists like the Beatles' "Fool on the Hill," "With a Little Help from My Friends" and "Daytripper"; those by Burt Bacharach and Dionne Warwick such as "The Look of Love" and "Going Out of My Head"; Simon and Garfunkel's "Scarborough Fair," and Glenn Campbell's "Wichita Lineman."

Mendes first caught the public attention as the leader of the Bossa Nova Trio, which played in jazz festivals in Europe in 1963.

When Mendes moved to New York in 1964, he collaborated with other artists on bossa nova recordings.

In 1965, he formed Brasil '65 with musicians and singers that included Lani Hall.

In 1966, he renamed the group Brasil '66. The group's cover of Jorge Ben's "Mais Que Nada" would be the first of its string of hits. Brasil '66 is still widely recognized for producing some of the best Latin pop songs of all time.

To this day, fans of Latin pop music instantly recognize Lani Hall's smooth voice laced with Mendes' piano in such hits as "Look Around," "Constant Rain" and a remake of the classic Beatle number, "Fool on the Hill," which was a Top 10 smash.

Hall later went solo and released seven albums between 1972 and 1983. In 1985, she won a Grammy award for best Latin pop performance for "Es Facil Amar," becoming the most famous member of Brasil '66 to go solo.

Mendes went on to form three other groups, Brasil '77, Brasil '88 and Brasil '99.

Lani Misalucha, whose vocal range covers various genres from pop to soul, from rock to jazz, is certainly equal to the demands of the Mendes music. Lani was best singer in the 1998 Asia Song Festival.

For tickets, call Star City at 832-6121 and 22, Ticketworld at 891-5610, and TicketNet at 911-5555.

MISALUCHA

Premature Yuletide features on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NO SOONER had we written our recent column on "Christmas in September" than **Sharon Cuneta**'s TV show came up with a full-blown telecast along that line, complete with Yuletide carols, Santa Clauses and Christmas presents.

We really wish our TV people would be more judicious in the trends they push for the TV audience to slavishly imitate.

Who benefits from this "December in September" *pakulo*?

Mostly the retail merchants, who just love it because viewers are being programmed to start buying presents more than three months before Christmas actually takes place.

Television has the power to subliminally influence how viewers think and behave, but it's a power that should be exercised with great care—and trepidation.

So, cool it, people.

In her recent program, Sharon also talked about her first film with **Aga Muhlach**, "Kung Ako na Lang Sana," for Star Cinema. The company is making a big deal about this first-ever team-up of these two bankable stars—and well it should, because Sharon's last film, which co-starred her with **Richard Gomez**, didn't exactly set the box office on fire, despite its excessively heavy promotions.

We hope that the Sharon-Aga starrer does much better, so it should avoid the negative factors that limited the success of that previous movie.

They included its giddy, "for-the-fans" handling that didn't feel right for now more mature stars like Sharon and Richard; similarly dated plotting and acting styles; improbable situations; and a general attitude of resistance or denial in relation to the changing films times.

So, don't plug this new movie to death, just make sure it connects with today's audiences, and to what Sharon and Aga have *become*, not to what they once were.

Like other leading ladies of Aga Muhlach, Sharon also has to cope with the problem that Aga often looks better and younger than his female co-stars.

With imaginative use of lighting, shot sizes, make-up, costuming and etc., this problem *can* be surmounted, but the wise leading lady knows that she's got to really work at it.

New cast members

CHANNEL 2's "Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis" will have three new cast members starting Sept. 22. They are **Vhong Navarro, Mahal** and **Mura**.

Vhong plays Bok Tyson, a young cop who's eager to do well, but gets on Buboy's (**Cesar Montano**) nerves. Unfortunately, Buboy can't get a break at home, because Bok moves in with him and his wife Mary (**Maricel Soriano**) until he can get his own pad.

Mahal and Mura play Bok's aunts.

Meanwhile, the case to be solved in the show this week is that of a fashion designer and model (**Joyce Jimenez**), who has asked for the cops' help in exposing the source of the nude footage, taken by hidden camera, of her and her models.

The tapes are now being sold as pirated video discs all over the country, so Joyce has reason to be greatly concerned.

Don't plug this new movie to death, just make sure it connects with today's audiences

New animé series

ABS-CBN airs the new animé series "Project Arms" every Monday at 5 p.m., back to back with Rave.

SHARON, Aga promote "Kung Ako na Lang Sana." RUDY ESPERAS

"Project Arms" is about four teenage high school students who have undergone a physical change: Arms have been implanted in their bodies by an evil underground organization bent on wiping out the human race.

The arms are weapons of mass destruction that give their hosts immense powers, but eventually also assume control over them.

DID YOU KNOW...

Onemig Bondoc, who plays a gay character in ABS CBN's youth dramedy "Buttercup," was seen holding hands with a girl, who's not from show biz, late Saturday afternoon at the Alabang Town Center. They were coming out of the movie house that was showing "Hollywood Homicide," which stars **Harrison Ford** and **Josh Hartnett**.

Probers suggest lesser crime raps vs music producer

LOS ANGELES—Pop music producer Phil Spector was likely to be charged with second-degree murder or manslaughter seven months after a struggling actress was shot to death in his hilltop mansion, police said on Friday.

The recording studio innovator of the 1960s pop revolution was arrested on suspicion of murder after Lana Clarkson, 40, was shot in the face hours after going home with Spector last Feb. 3.

Last Thursday, detectives passed on the findings of their investigation to prosecutors, recommending that Spector be charged with a lesser crime than previously expected.

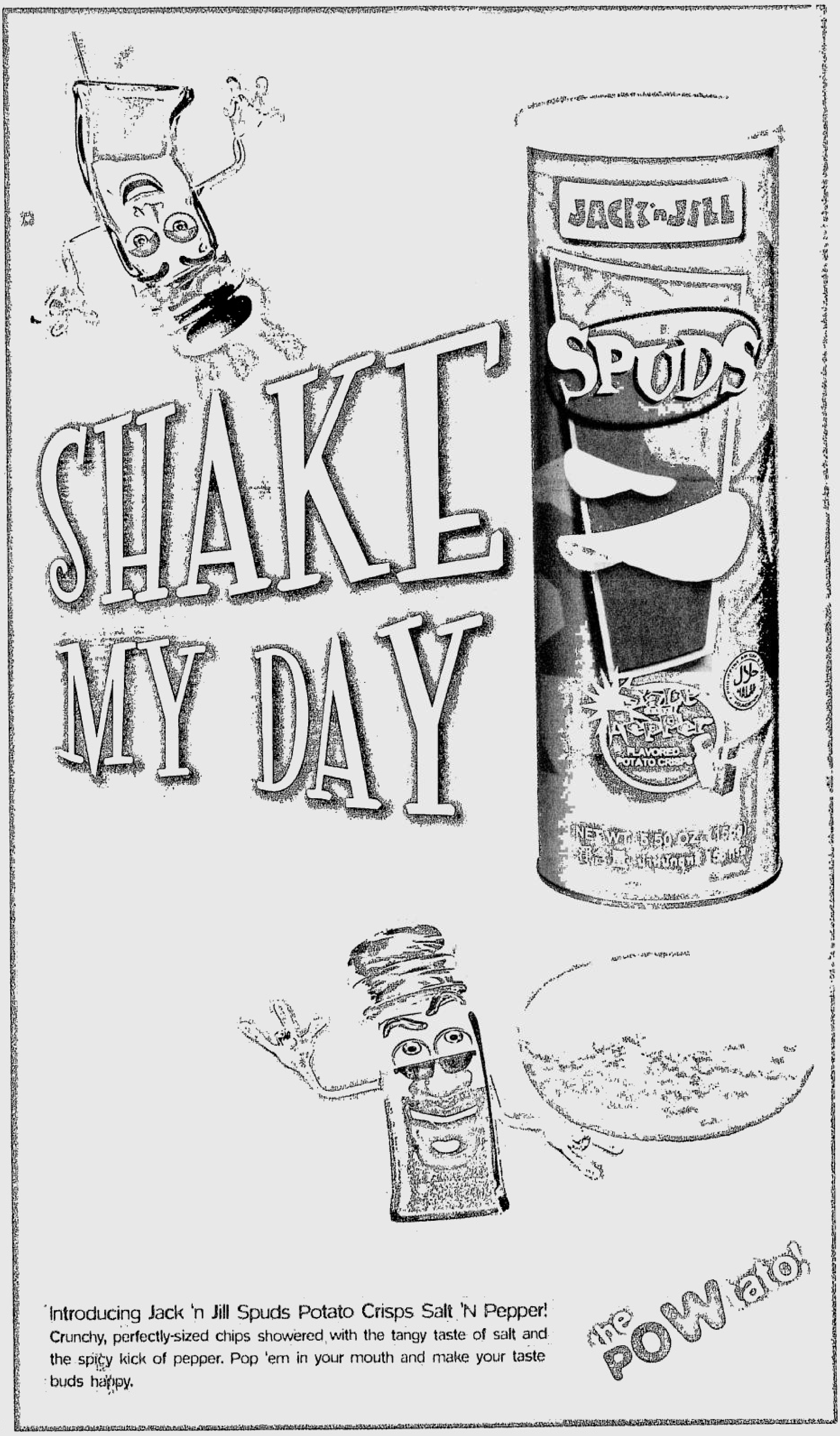
Spector reportedly met Clarkson at the Hollywood music club where she worked as a hostess hours before her death and took her to his rambling mansion in his Mercedes-Benz limousine late the same night. Police were called to the estate when Spector's chauffeur heard a gunshot in the house. Clarkson was found dead in the home's entrance hall. Spector was arrested and released on $1-million bail later the same day.

In his first public remarks on Clarkson's death, Spector told Esquire magazine in June that Clarkson "kissed the gun" and shot herself. "I have no idea why—never knew her, never even saw her before that night," Spector said.

Investigators later dismissed the suicide theory when it appeared in a widely circulated e-mail apparently sent by Spector.

Spector was the genius behind such black pop singing groups as The Ronettes. He is widely regarded as an innovator for his layered "wall of sound" technique that revolutionized the music of the 1960s.

He worked with Elvis Presley, Ike and Tina Turner and the Beatles on "Let It Be." But he also earned a reputation for gun-toting behavior, violence and heavy drinking. *AFP*



Introducing Jack 'n Jill Spuds Potato Crisps Salt 'N Pepper! Crunchy, perfectly-sized chips showered with the tangy taste of salt and the spicy kick of pepper. Pop 'em in your mouth and make your taste buds happy.

The Japanese master of cool

KITANO plays in his own "Zatoichi"

By Constantino C. Tejero

JAPANESE film masters seem to come in threes.

First, there was the triumvirate of Mizoguchi, Ozu and Kurosawa. They were followed by Ichikawa, Oshima and Imamura.

Our observation could be wrong, but today we see a new trio of Japanese film artists who are becoming important figures in international cinema. This would include Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Sogo Ishii and Takeshi Kitano.

Two or three years ago, the annual Japanese filmfest Eiga Sai highlighted the cinema of Sogo Ishii. It was in his 1996 "Labyrinth of Dreams," by the way, that we first noticed the soon-to-become pop idol Tadanobu Asano (who later starred in Oshima's samurai drama "Gohatto" and is now costarring in Kitano's samurai remake "Zatoichi").

Early this year, the first part of Eiga Sai showcased a selection of Kiyoshi Kurosawa's works. For many Filipino film enthusiasts, it was their first foray into the strange cinema of this Japanese filmmaker—never mind if it was already a retrospective.

Now it's Kitano's turn.

Presented by the Japan Foundation Manila Office and the Cultural Center of the Philippines are seven of his major works, to be screened at the CCP Dream Theater on Sept. 30-Oct. 3, at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Though all three make eccentric, sometimes weird films, Kitano is the more mainstream. The enthusiastic reception accorded "Dolls" at Cinemanila last month confirmed his mainstream status, as the film itself appealed to both cineastes and casual moviegoers.

Then came the news that his latest film "Zatoichi" won the Silver Lion at this year's Venice filmfest.

The filmmaker was no stranger to such honors, however. "Hana-Bi" won the Golden Lion in 1997. The film, to be screened at the CCP as "Fireworks," is considered his masterpiece.

If there's one film of his, though, that stands out as a specimen of cool, it should be "Sonatine." Here Kitano has perfected the cool persona that recurs through his succeeding films.

For ultra-violence, Tarantino should grovel at his feet.

As borne out by these films, including "Violent Cop," "Boiling Point" and "Kids Return," Kitano is the cinematic counterpart of Hemingway. The Kitano character—stolid, tough and laconic—is the Hemingway hero that James Ellroy can only aspire to.

Like Hemingway, Kitano is also unafraid to plunge into a pool of tenderness and sweetness.

Witness "Kikujiro," his sentimental rendering of "The Wizard of Oz." And, of course, much of the emotionalism in "Dolls."

One may even take Kitano's sharp visuals as equivalent to Hemingway's clean prose style. Underneath that armor-plated exterior lies a soft-bellied aestheticism.

Comedy gone to the dogs

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

NOWADAYS, I watch any movie that makes fun out of politics. The only problem is how such a movie could be any funnier than the laugh-a-minute roller-coaster that is politics, Philippine style.

Now you might want to argue that there's absolutely nothing comical about our sad state of affairs. And you're right, of course. What we're going through as a nation could certainly put to the test any fervent Buddhist's ability to accept everything.

But laughter, especially the unquenchable kind, has its own rewards. It's not just a coping mechanism for surviving tough times. It's also a stripping agent that breaks down the hard-core cynicism that has a way of clinging to us when we take contemporary politics and the news too seriously.

If only for this reason I would tell you to watch "Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde." Yes, just to laugh at politics, and, if only for a while, stop all that headshaking in disillusionment.

It's not the funniest material you'll ever see on the big screen. In fact, "LB2" is merely your routine, by-the-numbers, fish-out-of-water tale that is so predictable you may feel like you've seen it all before. And you really have if you saw its predecessor.

In the first "Legally Blonde" movie, Reese Witherspoon's Elle Woods won over her drab and derisive classmates in Harvard law school with her own brand of smarts (she's a living, breathing Cosmopolitan database), her outrageous style and indefatigable spirit. She even managed to graduate class valedictorian.

This is basically the same film with a different setting, namely, Washington, with its typical Capitol-corruption cliché. But I for one don't mind the rehash. Congress—it doesn't matter which country's, it seems—is always fair game for a comedy.

Anyway, how Elle ends up in Congress is one for the books.

Too much

As the movie opens, we find Elle in line for a partnership in one of the top law firms in Boston. She's actually made it professionally, and personally as well, as she's about to marry her ever-supportive boyfriend, the Harvard law professor Emmett (Luke Wilson).

While she's preparing their guest list, Elle gets a supposedly inspired idea to send an invitation to the mother of her beloved pet Chihuahua, Bruiser. (Bear with me here.) Not knowing who the dog is, she hires an ace private detective to trace her whereabouts. When Elle finds out that Bruiser's mom is being used as a test subject in a cosmetics laboratory her law firm represents, she makes a pitch for animal rights during a client meeting that gets her fired from her job.

Undaunted, Elle takes up the fight in Congress, working as an aide to Congresswoman Victoria Rudd (Sally Field) and proposing a bill banning all animal testing under her sponsorship.

It goes without saying that Elle would find Washington a pretty tough town to paint pink. There lies the fun, however, as she uses her quirky and perky gifts to overcome the sandbagging tactics of the jaded and more politically adept people around her.

There are lots about this film that I don't like. I couldn't find myself, for instance, to put much of a personal stake on the political issue it chose to wage. It's not that I don't give a darn about dogs; it's just that I'm not sold on the idea of giving them too darn much. I've read somewhere that Americans spend about $7 billion a year on their dogs. If that's true, then dogs in the US live better than most people elsewhere in the world.

Hysterically funny

There are so many other issues the movie could have taken up that concern the life and death of human beings. But hey, this is a comedy after all, and the dog fascination makes for some hysterically funny scenes.

Another gripe is the movie's depiction of politics, which is too coarsely drawn and broadly directed. What ought to have been an easy target for satire (Politicians are corrupt, stop the presses!) becomes a bit dull when you hardly get a sense of authenticity out of the politics in the movie.

I worked as a senator's aide for several years and I can tell you one can spin a lot of funny stuff out of the real-life dynamics of conflict and cooperation that goes on in Congress. The political scene is an arena where diverse power brokers clash, and how they clash is indeed quite amusing.

"LB2," however, is not a movie that would give you some truthful insights about the workings within such an arena. You don't see the winners and losers, you don't see the influence of party affiliations in legislation, and all the politicians who appear in the movie are dolts of one order or another.

There's an attempt to provide a behind-the-scenes look at how big money influences legislation through the predicament of Congresswoman Rudd, but it is not a provocative glimpse since the subject is relegated to one or two scenes at most.

The biggest disappointment is the big speech that we've all gotten used to in movies like this. It's the moment of truth where the hero or heroine is finally able to speak her heart and tell it like it is. Here, Elle gets to speak before a joint session of Congress.

Need to listen

Sadly, what comes out of her mouth sounds like the wisdom of a politicized Little Orphan Annie. What's supposed to be a stirring preachment in patriotism is hardly inspiring. The best line it could come up with is, "So speak up, America. Speak up for the home of the brave. Speak up for the land of the free gift with purchase."

It's amazing how Witherspoon managed to keep a straight face while delivering such a silly speech. When you think about all its problems, America needs to listen much more than it needs to speak up.

I know, enough with the quibbles. One thing I can appreciate with "LB2" is that it's not ashamed of its well-worn message, about how one naïve but idealistic soul can make a difference even when she's lying in a cesspool of corruption and cynicism.

Certainly, there are movies that have fleshed out this message much better. "LB2" even pays homage to one of them, Frank Capra and James Stewart's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Now there's a movie worth seeing if you want to haul yourself out from the depths of disillusionment.

But that's another story, meant for another movie review.

CANINE CONFRONTATION. The Reese Witherspoon starrer could have taken up other life-and-death issues instead of focusing on dogs.

SHOW TIME

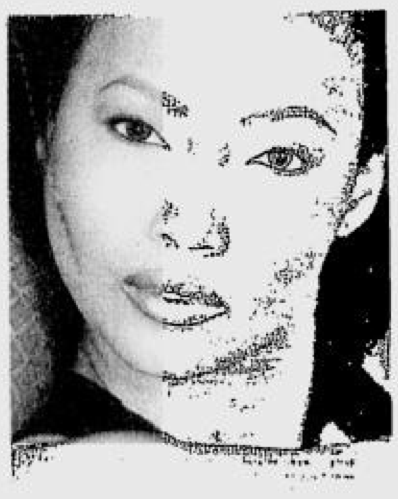
'CLICK!' DOES SINGAPORE

The popular teen *barkada* of "Click!" face extraordinary challenges in the Lion City of Singapore as they go on a romantic dinner cruise, scour the shopping district, play with orangutans and drink snake blood, all in a two-part television special. Far from home, they try to figure out how to survive in a foreign land and eventually find themselves getting closer to each other in their amazing journey of friendship, love and learning. The first part of the "Click!" special aired last Saturday; the second part will air on Sept. 27 at 5 p.m. on GMA. The "Click!" *barkada* includes (from left) Jake Cuenca (Tryke), Railey Valeroso (Icko), JC de Vera (Benj), Mikel Campos (Nathan), and Valerie Concepcion (Yasmin).

OA marks 15 years in show biz

HITMAKER Ogie Alcasid marks his 15th year in the business with a mega-concert, "OA at Fifteen," on Oct. 10 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Viva Concerts has gathered a powerhouse line-up of guests which include Ogie's closest friends in the biz like Gary Valenciano, Regine Velasquez, Piolo Pascual, Kyla, Jaya, Janno Gibbs, Michael V, Antonio Aquitania, Wendell Ramos, Francis Magalona, Dingdong Avanzado, Salbakuta, Sarah Geronimo, Manilyn Reynes and Rico J. Puno.



JAYA

GARY V

"I think that I've become more giving as a performer," says OA.

"Whether it's a small or a big venue, I always give my all," he adds. "I never take for granted the fact that mine is a wonderful job.

"And I've learned never to let my desire as a performer burn out."

Tickets for P1,300, P1,100, P600, P300 and P150 are available at the Araneta Ticketnet (911-5555), SM Ticketnet, and Viva Concerts (687-5853, 687-6181 local 715 or 620, and 687-1125).

GMA's 53rd year bash at Elbow Room

GMA 7 recently held a 53rd anniversary bash at the Elbow Room at the Podium in the Ortigas Center.

The star-studded event was attended by Pops Fernandez, Bong Revilla, Mark Gil, Paolo Montalban, Leo Martinez, Karylle, Al Tantay, talent manager Shirley Kuan, Amy Perez, Eagle, Richard Gutierrez, Albert Martinez, Ronnie and Ida Henares and many other luminaries.

In full force was the GMA News Team. Seen mingling with the glittering crowd were Mike Enriquez, Arnold Clavio, Lhar Santiago, Ivan Mayrina, Bernadette Sembrano, Maki Pulido and Rhea Santos, among others.

Also present were GMA 7 top executives Jimmy Duavit, Wilma Galvante, Marivin Arayata, Bang Arrespacochaga, and many more.

With its Zen-inspired interiors and Asian-fusion cuisine, everyone in the party had such a great time wining, dining and playing billiards at the Elbow Room.

The Elbow Room is located at the 5th Level of The Podium in Ortigas Center. For reservations, you may call 634-1404 or 635-2881.

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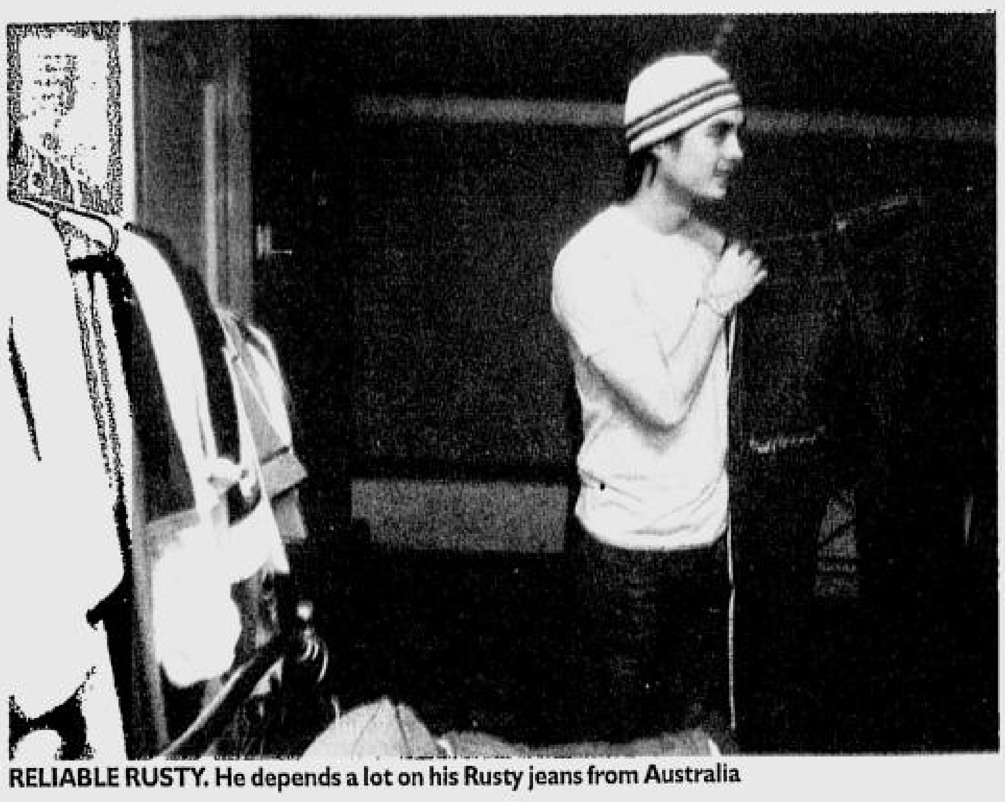


RELIABLE RUSTY. He depends a lot on his Rusty jeans from Australia

'Brad and I go for the same qualities. The women we have gone out with all have brains. They have to be smart, down to earth, and they have got to have a bit of class'

DOUBLE VISION. Greg's twin Brad, and his rumored girlfriend, concert royalty Pops Fernandez

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Greg Turvey

THAT'S ME. He says the word on his favorite T-shirt describes him perfectly.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Marinel R. Cruz

"POPS is an incredible woman. You meet a lot of people in show biz with their heads up in the clouds, especially those who have been in the business for a long time. She's not like that at all."

No, that's not Brad Turvey talking about his rumored girlfriend, concert queen Pops Fernandez, but his twin brother Greg. Greg is is recounting the one week he was able to spend with the singer/actress when she and Brad went to the Gold Coast in Australia, the native country of the twins, for a vacation last May.

"They went there a week ahead of me," Greg tells INQUIRER Entertainment during this Out of the Closet visit.

"She's cool," he says of Pops. "She was just a regular person in Australia. She got to meet some of our friends."

Pops, 36, and Brad, 24, however, have never made a public admission of their romance despite persistent gossip.

"Brad and I pretty much go for the same qualities in a girl," says Greg. "The women we have gone out with all have brains. The ideal girl has to be smart and down to earth. She also has got to have a bit of class."

Bradley and Gregory Turvey were born within two minutes of each other in Australia. Their mom is Chinese and their dad is Scottish-Australian.

According to Greg, Brad went to the Philippines in 2001, but only for a three-week holiday with friends. Those three weeks turned into months because Brad took modeling jobs in Manila.

When Brad returned to the Gold Coast, he quit his job there and he asked Greg to go with him and try working in the Philippines.

"At that time, my mom was getting sick of my business," Greg recalls. "I managed night clubs in Australia and mom wasn't really happy about that."

Brad was in retail back in the Gold Coast, according to his twin.

"Mom didn't mind me doing it as a job," says Greg. "What she didn't like was me mixing with the people who go to the clubs, the bikies and the drug dealers. Not that I was into anything illegal, though, but you got to work with these people. They were the people who owned the clubs you managed. I worked in clubs for a long time.

"My mom's happier with my work now," he adds.

The twins are seen on GMA 7 every Sunday as co-hosts of the noontime show "SOP," and every Wednesday on the live gag show "Nuts Entertainment." Brad is also a co-host of the popular DJ pair Chico and Delamar on their breakfast show, "The Morning Rush," on RX 93.1.

Because the twins now consider the Philippines their second home, they have learned to adjust, especially to the country's climate, says Greg. In Australia, the twins were usually in sandals, board shorts and T-shirts. Here, they are forever in jeans, says Greg.

"Because that's the way it is around here," he says. "While I just match mine with T-shirts, he (Brad) would wear his with polos or something with a collar."

Greg says his brother's idea of casual wear is a little bit more formal than his. "It's more of his personal choice, its because of his work," he says. "Sometimes I borrow some of his suits if I need to wear something formal. I get in trouble a lot. He would say 'I just wore that the other day for a photo shoot and you're wearing it now!'"

T-shirts. "I like this shirt because I go for baggy wear. This shirt is pretty old, about three-years old, I guess. It's from Australia. It says 'geek,' a term which describes me perfectly.

"This white shirt is my all-time favorite clubbing shirt in Australia. I keep it because of its sentimental value. I still wear this here (Manila), sometimes.

"I'm sponsored by No Fear. And this is probably my favorite No Fear shirt because it's simple. I prefer this over shirts with big, bold designs and loud colors that they gave me. I also go for blue."

Jeans. "I don't get to wear this pair often now. You don't get this here. It's Rusty, it's from Australia. Rusty is my favorite brand."

Belt. "My favorite is the one I'm wearing right now, because I made it myself. It's made of leather strings which I bound together. I finished it in about three hours. I don't usually make stuff like this. My best friend Ben, who is from a farm out in the bush in Australia, taught me how to do it. Don't ask me to do it again."

Rubber shoes. "Most of my shoes in Manila are all sponsored by Skechers. As in my clothes, I like my shoes simple. This pair has a very simple design. Its color is not too loud and it feels comfortable so I wear it all the time."

Slip-ons. "You won't find these sandals here. These are typical beach boy's sandals from Australia. I've had them since three or four years ago. They go with my 'geek' T-shirt and my board shorts. These are what I wear back home."

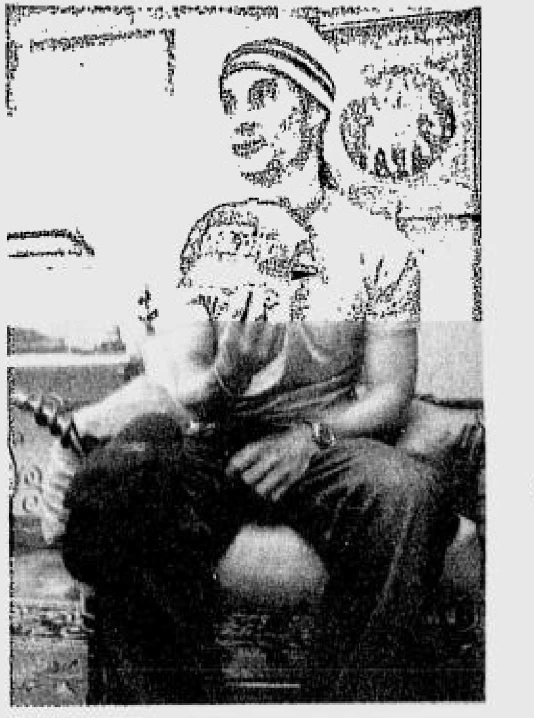
Board shorts. "In Australia, give me shorts any day and I'd gladly wear them with *sando* or board shirts. I can't do that here. Between my brother and me, we have about a hundred board shorts. He used to work for a surf store back home. My favorite is from Rusty. I like the color and the design. You won't see this design anywhere. It also has a good fit at the waist if you surf a lot. It kind of sits really low on your waist and so your surfer's tan is up to halfway down your butt."

Suit. "I don't wear *barong* Tagalog, but eventually I might. Most people wear suits in formal gatherings here. People who wear *barong* are the more senior ones. My favorite suit was made by JC Buendia. I love the Chinese collar. I also like that he made it with no buttons whatsoever. It's warm, that's why he designed the inner shirt without sleeves. He made it for me when I hosted Mutya ng Pilipinas this year. I still wear it when I have to go to a formal event. I'm supposed to give it back to him, but I kind of adopted it."

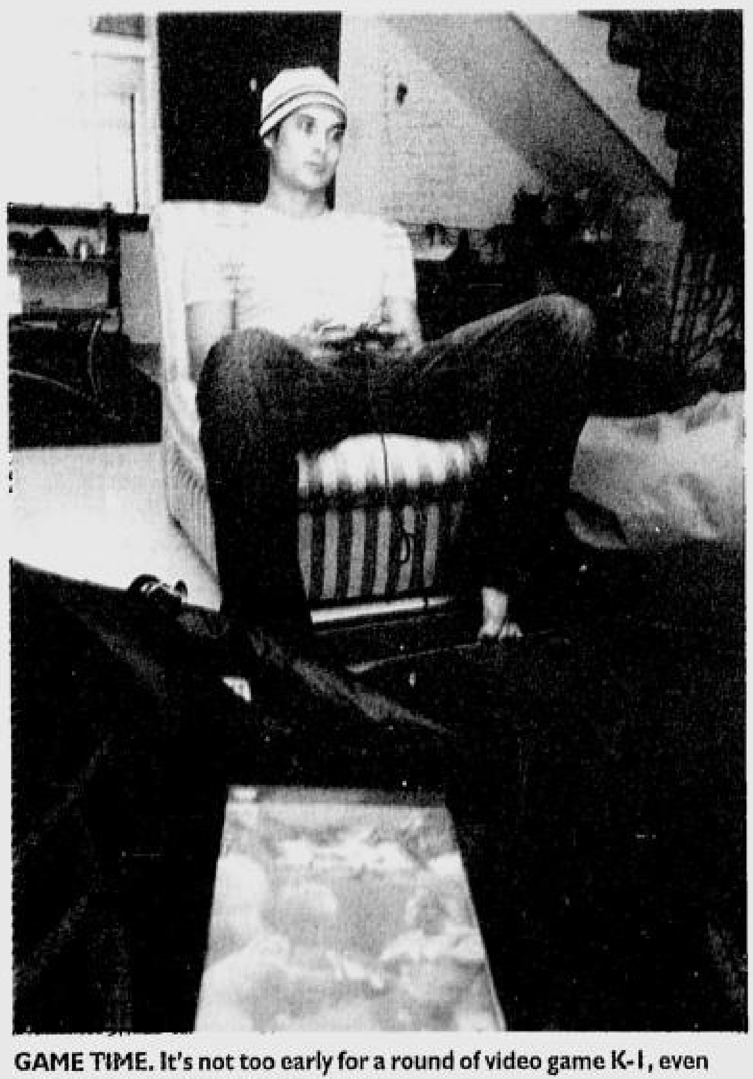
Head wear. "This is about the only bandana I've got here in the Philippines. I got this for free in Boracay in Holy Week. It's cool. I also got to wear it in some sporting events I attended. I actually even wore this back in Australia."

"This is my favorite No Fear cap because I just love the logo. It states me in general: 'Drive it like you stole it.'"

"Juice is one of my favorite cap brands in Australia. They have really, really good hats, they're all flexi-fits."



LOVE THAT LOGO. His fave cap says "Drive it like you stole it."



GAME TIME. It's not too early for a round of video game K-1, even when he has just gotten out of bed

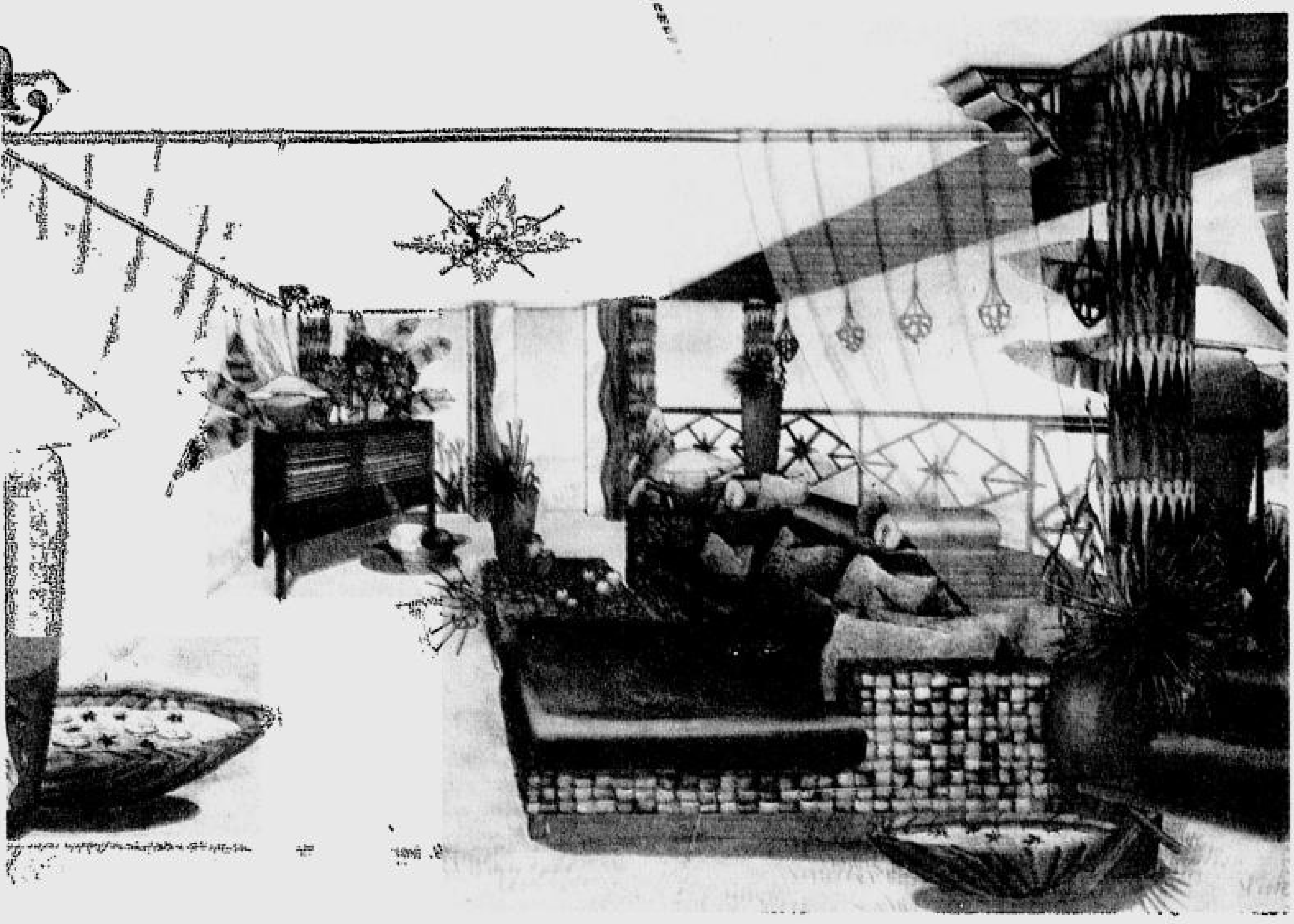
BEACH WEAR. He usually wears these when he's in Australia.

LONG ON SHORTS. This low-waist pair helps give a good tan.

SIMPLE SHOES. His favored pair is comfortable, and the design is not too loud.

Carmi Martin, designing woman

By Grace Barrameda
Contributor



DESIGNS ON her mind. Graduating student Carmi and her group's Kalibo-inspired sitting room

AFTER 25 years, actress Carmi Martin has gone back to school and is ready for a new role—as a professional interior designer.

Carmi was only 15 when she started in show biz via the comedy "Dolphy's Angels." She set aside her studies and proceeded to devote her time to the movies.

Today, 25 years and about 50 movies later, Carmi is about to earn her Interior Design degree from the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID)!

"The past 25 years have all been devoted to show biz," Carmi admits. "That's all I did. But my closest friends saw what else I could do, and they made me realize my other potentials."

Those friends were comedian and TV host Tessie Tomas and singer Verni Varga, who observed that Carmi had a knack for fixing homes. "I used to host a lot of parties at home (a Makati apartment) and my friends would ask me who did my place," recalls Carmi. "*Ako lang naman talaga*. Tessie suggested that I take up interior design."

Carmi had only one institution in mind for interior design—PSID. "I've heard of it and I was sure of its reputation," she says. "What I wasn't sure about was my capability. *Kaya ko bang bumalik sa* school after so many years? I stopped schooling at 15 to prioritize the studies of my siblings. And now that I had all the chance to go back, I was a little apprehensive."

In 1999, she started going to PSID in Makati. "The teachers guided me well," she says. "They advised me not to take full-load units. For 25 years, all I did was memorize scripts, not fashion something out of nothing. I chose a black shirt where I wrote my name, *pero* artistic, *ha*. I got a 98 percent for that.

"This has been the best decision I made in my life. And my life has changed totally."

When not busy in show biz chores, Carmi works at her plates, draws interior spaces or studies color schemes. Even to out-of-town tapings, Carmi brings her homework, finishes them, works on the taping till the wee hours and attends her classes the next day. And she always submits her plates on time.

Carmi's designs lean towards minimalism, very cozy and with clean lines. Her own private place is mostly in black and white, to give it the peaceful atmosphere that she prefers.

"I'm more into houses and stores," she says. "The living and the dining rooms are my favorite spots in the house. Production design is OK but I think I would feel restricted in it."

Graduation is in November, but she is already excited to design for her friends in show biz. She is already toying with design ideas for her three closest show biz friends. "For Verni, a contemporary design in monochromatic colors is best," she says. '*Yung walang* complication because that's how she is as a person. For Tessie, whom we all know as a cheerful person, nothing but bright colors. Not that Ka Roger (Pullin, Tessie's English husband) would agree, ha! For Gladys (Reyes), I would use cheerful colors as well to show her youth and her vibrance."

Carmi and her classmates will put up a graduation exhibit called "ISLA (Interior Spaces for Local Application)" on Oct. 3 to 31 at the PBCom Towers on Ayala Avenue in Makati City. ISLA is inspired by 13 different regions of the country and is mounted in cooperation with the Department of Tourism and the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

Carmi and her groupmates Aissa Gonzalez and Jen Newfield have been assigned Kalibo, Aklan as inspiration for their design. The result of their months of research is "Ati," an outdoor sitting room that is both festive (reminiscent of the Ati-atihan festival) and relaxed. This booth will be one of the 33 actual rooms designed by the graduating class which will be on exhibit.

'Biggest, brightest, most expensive' show from ABS

SHOW TIME

ABS-CBN is bent on making television history in October as it presents what it describes as "the biggest, brightest, most star-studded TV special" of its 50th anniversary extravaganza to be held at the PICC Plenary Hall.

The extravaganza budget is said to be the largest for a special in Philippine TV history.

With the event, the network vowed to accomplish many television firsts as it gathers what it says is the "biggest talent pool ever in TV history."

The ABS-CBN 50th anniversary extravaganza will bring together many of the network's stars from past and present: the TV superstars from the 1950s to today as well as the biggest stars on TV, in music, in live concerts and in movies, and the biggest bets for stardom.

Maestro Ryan Cayabyab, the show's musical director, has prepared completely new arrangements to vividly recreate the five decades that ABS-CBN has chronicled. The music will be interpreted by the 60-member San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra. ABS-CBN also commissioned Cayabyab to compose two songs to celebrate the company's glorious five decades.

The performers will include more than 150 dancers for the grand musical numbers.

The production team is led by director Johnny Manahan, executive in charge of production Charo Santos-Concio and the ABS-CBN Special Projects production team headed by Chit Guerrero.

Six OB vans and state-of-the-art video and audio equipment will also be used for the event.

Dreamers who make their dreams come true

THERE are two types of dreamers: those who enjoy the dream in their sleep, and those who dream but get up and work to make the dream come true. The latter type is the story of Me magazine's faces of success this September.

"I am going to be the greatest dad known to man," actor and host Edu Manzano declares. "This is it, I feel no greater joy."

In "His Father's Son," writer Leah C. Eriguel describes Edu, son of La Sallian jock Adi Manzano, as a chip off the old block. Edu gives most of his precious time to sons Luis and Enzo and only daughter Andie, teaching them to take a bite out of life, just as his own father once taught him.

For actress and mother Janice de Belen, being a single parent all of a sudden was a challenge that brought out her courage. "People have this notion that I am strong, but I don't want to use that word," Janice tells writer Cora Llamas. "The truth is, I still bend, I still make mistakes and decisions that are wrong."

Editor in chief Cathy Babao-Guballa catches up with versatile, sophisticated actress Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo in "A Vibrant Dawn," which tells the story of Dawn after marrying businessman Anton Lagdameo, and the reasons why she chose a more quiet life. "All (things) happen in its perfect time," Dawn says. When asked to define success, she says, "(Success) is leaving behind something good. You have to ask yourself, 'How many lives have I touched? How much joy have I spread?' "

"Wish Ko Lang" fairy godmother and host Bernadette Sembrano grants "One More Wish" by Cora Llamas, showing special snapshots and stories of her life as TV host, investigative reporter, and apartment owner.

And Babao-Guballa gets the hardcore facts of "Charo Santos-Concio and the Secret of Her Success" on her journey to becoming one of ABS-CBN's top honchos and on staying on top of the most competitive entertainment broadcast company's projects.

More uplifting success stories by big dreamers, movers and shakers are in the latest issue of Me magazine.

Me, from Mega Magazines and Publications Inc., is available in leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide for P100 a copy. For more information, call 631-2859.

PARENTS AND SONS. Edu, dad of Luis, and Janice talk about parenting, decisions and being the best.

COVER GIRL. Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo defines success.

ArtFilm
MAKING AWARD-WINNING EXTRAORDINARY

Based on the play SPEAKING TONGUES by Andrew Bovell

lantana
love is the greatest mystery

Anthony LaPaglia, Geoffrey Rush
& Barbara Hershey

A woman disappears.
Four marriages are drawn into a tangled
web of love, deceit, sex & death.
Not all of them will survive.

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
— Ebert & Roeper

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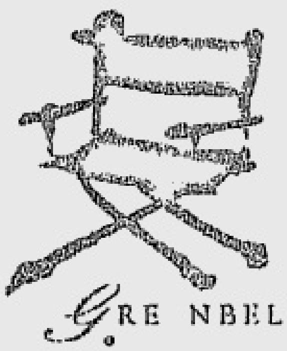

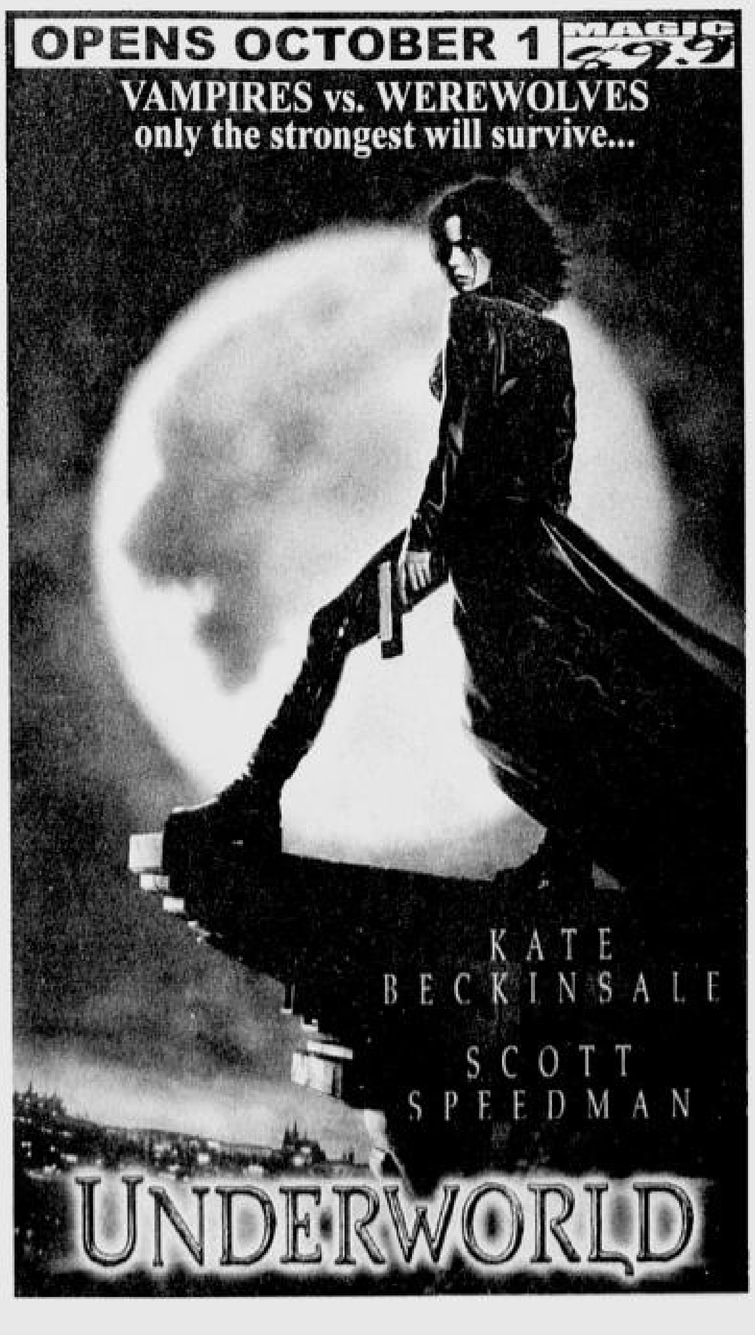

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2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	2 BASIC	2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE 12:35, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 GIGLI (Exclusive) 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 1ST TIME	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 GIGLI (Exclusive) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	MARTIN NIEVERA Sep 26 & 27, 9PM LANI MISALUCHA Oct 10 & 11, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00	3 BASIC
4 FREDDY VS. JASON	4 S.WA.T.		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 FREDDY VS. JASON 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 DADDY DAY CARE
	5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 BASIC 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
	6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE			
	7 THE MEDALLION			

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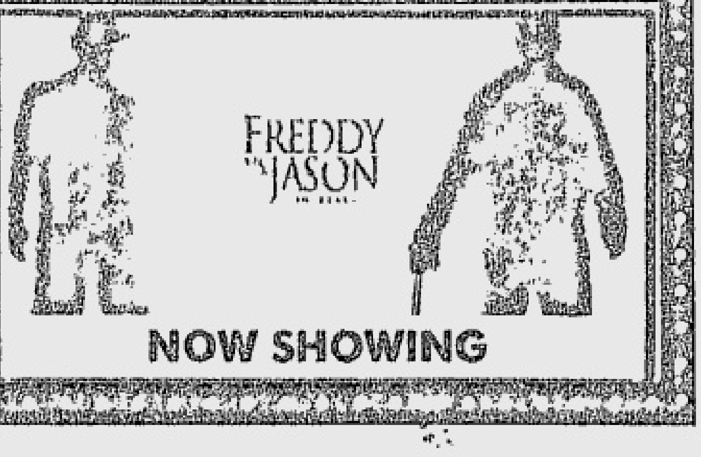

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10 ASBOOBS

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7 BASIC
8 FREDDY VS. JASON

SM SOUTHMALL
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1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 S.W.A.T.
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5 DADDY DAY CARE
6 KALABIT
7 THE MEDALLION
8 BASIC
9 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
10 FIRST TIME

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1 SPY KIDS 3-D
2 BASIC
3 IN-LAWS
4 S.W.A.T.
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6 WWW.XXX.COM
7 KALABIT
8 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

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1 WWW.XXX.COM
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4 INTERSTATE 60
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6 S.W.A.T.
7 RESERVED
8 PINAYPIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 SPY KIDS 3-D
2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3 S.W.A.T
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
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6 FIRST TIME

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 FIRST TIME
2 BASIC
3 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4 FREDDY VS. JASON

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 THE MEDALLION
3 FIRST TIME
4 BASIC

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 S.W.A.T.
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 PINAYPIE
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
5 BASIC
6 S.W.A.T.

SM BICUTAN
776-3655
1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2 FIRST TIME
3 BASIC
4 FREDDY VS. JASON

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 ASBOOBS
3 S.W.A.T
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6

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2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	5 BASIC 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:55
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:55	6 THE MEDALLION 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 S.W.A.T. 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	9 DADDY DAY CARE 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
8 1ST TIME 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	10 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

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3 THE MEDALLION - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 S.W.A.T. - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE - 10:10, 12:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
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8 1ST TIME

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AQUINO INSISTS ON CAMPAIGNING

Kris to Joey: I can help you win for Congress

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS and TV host Kris Aquino insists on "helping out" her boyfriend, Parañaque City mayor Joey Marquez, when he campaigns for a congressional seat in the 2004 elections, even after he declared that he could win even without her help.

"It is my decision to help," Kris told INQUIRER Entertainment last Saturday in a telephone interview. "I was not asked by anybody."

"I don't see anything wrong in my campaigning for him," she said, adding in Filipino, "If I could really help, why not?"

Reportedly in preparation for the 2004 election campaign season, Kris is said to have bought a house recently in Hillsborough in Alabang, Muntinlupa, the city next to Parañaque.

Joey, who is bent on running for congressman in 2004, last week told a group of entertainment writers over dinner, "I don't want people to think that I entered into a relationship with her (Kris) because of political reasons."

He pointed out that he has run for mayor in Parañaque and won in three consecutive elections without any help from Kris.

Kris responded to this by saying, "If, in my mind, I had thought that he entered into a relationship with me for purely political reasons, I would not have allowed it."

Kris and Joey are both talk show hosts, she of "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN and he of "S Files" on GMA. Both shows air at the same time on Sunday afternoon.

On weekdays, Kris is also seen with broadcaster Korina Sanchez on "Morning Girls" and on the top-rating game show "Game K N B?" both on ABS-CBN.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	FIRST TIME
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	FIRST TIME
B	KALABIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KALABIT
CINEMA-2	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-3	DADDY DAY CARE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWAT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-6	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-7	BRAZEN WOMEN
CINEMA-8	WWW XXX COM
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FREDDY VS JASON
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	BASIC
CINEMA-15	FIRST TIME
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-1	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-2	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-4	SPY KIDS 3
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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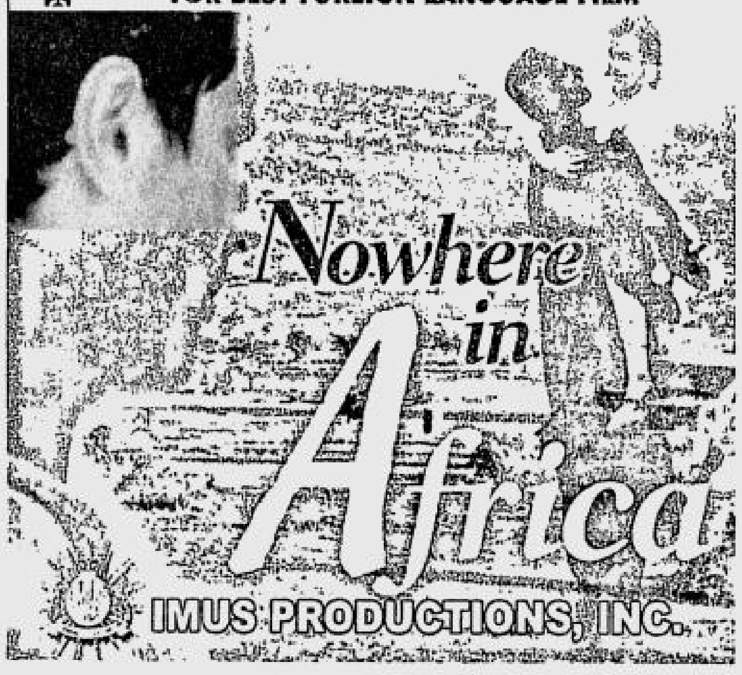

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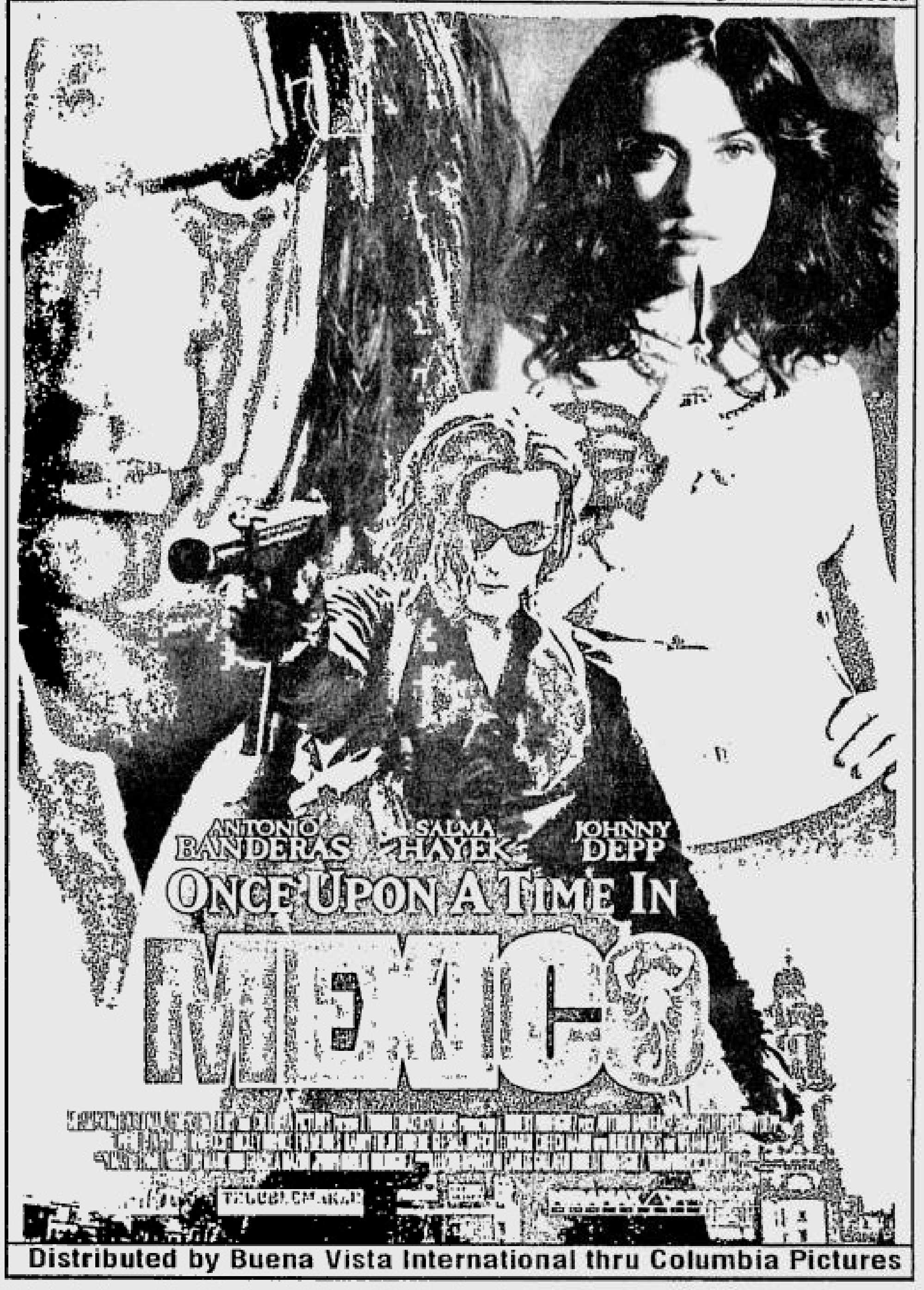

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MEDALLION PG13 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	S.W.A.T. PG13 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE PG13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20

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Ali 3	THE MEDALLION
Ali 4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
Ali 5	FREDDIE VS. JASON
Ali 6	S.W.A.T.
Ali 7	BASIC

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"GHOSTS ARE REAL!" WATCH FOR IT SEPT. 24!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

The award-winning lead star of this film has died recently in the same mysterious and terrifying circumstances suffered by the character he has portrayed... Ikaw, handa ka rin bang saniban para maniwalang totoo ang multo?

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Merienda
muna...

Skinning and destroying our old churches

AT EXTREME right, the convento in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte, with *palitada* over a brick wall that is dangerously peeling off. At right, detail of the deterioration.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF REGALADO TROTA JOSÉ

REGALADO Trota José has a message: "Don't peel the skin off churches." The skin he wants to keep is the lime-based mortar traditionally used during the Spanish colonial era to bind stones or bricks, and to cover walls. It is called *palitada*.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

"Palitada" is the exhibit Ricky put together that is now on view (until Dec. 31) at the Ayala Museum which is temporarily housed at the old Makati Stock Exchange Building.

The exhibit is all about the horrors that come after the skinning of churches.

Ricky José is a hard-core heritage crusader. In fact, he is one of the country's originals. His first book published in 1991 was appropriately titled "Simbahan." More than a decade before its publication, Ricky had been traveling all over the Philippines documenting church architecture. By now he must be close to having seen every church and *convento* in the country, but he's still traveling and still checking them out with a sharp eye. It shows you how committed he is to preserving churches.

Part of the documentation that Ricky collects in his travels are chunks of mortar that have been left deep in the inner recesses of church walls for centuries. He looks for original iron spikes, pegs or nails. He brings back samples of old bricks, stones, shells, or whatever was used for construction in the Spanish colonial days. He's put together quite an impressive collection of historic rubble and junk.

His better pieces are now on exhibit. Some are beautiful pieces of Filipino architectural heritage. Others show what normal wear and tear does to construction material.

Worse still, they show how human ignorance can actually tear these valuable and irreplaceable materials apart from their original locations in heritage constructions, and how humans can be the cause so much damage to historic structures.

Original is best

Seeing old construction materials in the exhibition makes a point: It is best to use the same original methods to repair an old structure. Few of the new methods are compatible, and many new construction methods actually cause more destruction to an old building rather than saving it.

For that reason, don't strip the skin off the walls of structures built during the Spanish colonial era. Leave the *palitada* on. Why?

This is what happens when you skin a wall. The skin you remove is the wall's protective covering. Walls in those days were built of natural materials—adobe (volcanic tuff), shells or coral stones, and porous bricks fired at low temperature, or a combination of all of the above. A mortar of lime, sand and a binding agent (sometimes sticky sap from leaves, egg whites and what have you) hold the adobe, stones and bricks together.

The inner wall material, composed of natural materials and the lime mortar that held it together, is thick, soft and porous but not hard enough to withstand exposure to the elements and to human vandalism. The lime *palitada* protected it. Without its *palitada*, the wall deteriorates.

So skinning a wall is like peeling a fruit. When you expose the tender insides to the elements, a deteriorating reaction takes place.

Fashionable but destructive

Not too long ago, it became fashionable to peel the *palitada* away. It was thought that exposing the structural inner wall added a romantic dimension of age to a structure. Walls covering churches, *conventos*, heritage houses were stripped away to reveal the stone or brick underneath.

There also were decaying walls with their plaster falling off, exposing patches of bricks underneath that evolved into yet another romantic image of antiquity, what Ricky calls "peek-a-boo bricks." Peek-a-boo is an architectural cliché today, having appeared early in places like the restored Las Piñas Church, in the Imelda Marcos architectural fantasies in Ilocos and elsewhere, and lately even peeping out of fake stucco walls of Megamall sandwich shops.

The *palitada* should have been repaired and the peek-a-boo never allowed to happen. Repairing or replacing *palitada* should also follow original construction methods. Lime should be

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From the museum to the mall

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

The Filipino Heritage Festival is bringing Pinoy culture out to where people are, through a series of accessible, interactive activities

TWO hundred and thirteen people fill up a photo gallery exhibit in 20 minutes, given very little fanfare and literally no announcements.

Many are drawn in by curiosity at the dozen or so photographs of familiar but exquisitely portrayed buildings; most of them stay for more than an hour, examining old haunting grounds or discovering new sites.

A lot more of these artistic newbies are in their 20s, from a generation that would be more comfortable surfing in cybercafés than pacing along museum corridors.

But then again, the exhibit was mounted not in the formal confines of an art gallery, but the busy beehive of the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

ANTON Juan

Anton Juan, theater director and artistic director of the month-long Filipino Heritage Festival, couldn't be happier. The gathering proves one point he is trying to make in this joint project of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Department of Tourism.

"We want to bring culture out from the cultural centers and the museums to the people themselves," Juan starts off with his usual fiery enthusiasm.

"Why? Because in these centers, the events are limited to the usual aficionados; the people hardly know what's going on. Nor will these people really go to these places. For example, if the teachers don't force out students to buy tickets [for a theatrical production], who will go to these venues? Do you think a theatrical company can make a whole season? No! You have to bring these events out."

CHURCHES like Miag-ao's are captured in portraits and photographs.

And out to various popular places does the Filipino Heritage Festival bring them.

Aside from the photographic exhibit of heritage sites in the mall, a *tiangge* in Plaza Miranda will display folk products such as herbal medicines and wines cased in coconut shells. A guided tour in old, revered, Quiapo will reveal centuries-old Filipino spirituality found in the Basilica of the Black Nazarene, the Golden Mosque, the San Sebastian Church and the Miraculous Shrine of the Holy Face.

A Food and Folk Arts Festival in the Barasoain Church will appetizingly lay out delectable traditional Pinoy cuisine.

High time

Juan says it is high time the foreign-enthralled Pinoys, especially the youth, be reminded and given a deeper appreciation of their heritage.

"Kids today can quickly sing the F4 songs which are in Mandarin, a language they don't understand, yet they don't even know the 'Bahay Kubo.'" he laments. "It is a shame because we do have a rich cultural legacy. Where in the world can you find traditional weavers who weave their designs coming from their dreams, but among our T'boli weavers?

"Before Blake and the other European writers started talking about what they call vision, it has been happening to us, to our indigenous people. Or take the so-called new music which is non-linear. Our indigenous music is non-linear."

He cites one reason for this cultural estrangement the general perception that art and heritage are not a dynamic part of one's daily life.

"Why do students think of theater, for example, as an extra-curricular exercise? It's because teachers bring them to a presentation only as part of a tour. But these teachers could dramatize lessons in the classes—lessons from traditions to marketing and entrepreneurship.

"In my Stage Movement class, we translated a polynomial equation into dance. The students remembered more, because the equation was physicalized."

He believes the public does not need a large amount of prodding to appreciate their heritage. Sometimes all it needs is one striking visual to reawaken memories, and with them, feelings of pride and maybe a little bit of patriotism.

In the photo exhibit at the Shangri-La Plaza, one old lady recognized a corner in the town of Silay.

"Alam ko iyan, kasi noong maliit ako, doon ako nakatira," she told Juan.

A thirtysomething marketing professional took one look at the photo of the Sto. Domingo Church.

"Do you know that when I was young, I'd wake up to that church every day, as I looked out of my window?" she mused.

"See? It's all part of their lives, their memories," Juan points out, reveling in the many ways an artistic interpretation could give layers of meaning to an otherwise ordinary sight like a church.

"It's a matter of the critical eye showing the common eye the same church but photographed in a different way. The familiar is caught in a different light, like when the stones of a church are cast a shade of red by the rays of a sunset or dawn. Once caught on a piece of film, the appreciation for that site deepens.

"Once people understand where they come from," Juan adds, "they recognize that they have a cultural past. And the spirit of a nation begins to grow."

Correction: A photograph complementing the article "Hooray for Heritage" last Sept. 15 showed indigenous weavers identified by the caption as having come from the Cordillera. They were really from Mindanao. Our apologies —Ed.

PAOAY Church: A reminder of the nation's spritual roots

ONGOING ACTIVITIES OF THE FILIPINO HERITAGE FESTIVAL

LOUAS/LUWAS: CULTURAL TENSION AND THE WORKS OF OUR NATIONAL ARTISTS
NCCA Lobby, exhibit runs until to Sept. 30

MGA LIKHA AT LARAWAN, a demonstration by textile weavers and an exhibit of works by the Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan awardee for textile tradition; Rustan's Makati, Filipiniana Section, Sept. 15-21

THE CASES OF QUIAPO: CHALLENGES IN REVITALIZING THE CITY
Bahay Nakpil, Bautista St., Quiapo, Manila, exhibit runs until to Sept. 30

HERITAGE IN FOCUS
Shangri-La Plaza Mall, exhibit runs up to Sept. 18

BREAKING THE SILENCE OF OBLIVION
A photo art exhibit of 30 churches heralded as National Cultural Treasures, and a multimedia presentation on Philippine Heritage Architecture by Javier Galvan, director of Instituto Cervantes; Greenbelt Cinema Lobby, Sept. 19-29

BOOK SALE AND BOOK SHOWER
National Library, Sept. 1-30

TIANGGE SA PLAZA MIRANDA
Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Sept. 19-21

LAKARAN: QUIAPO WALKING TOUR
Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila; all Saturdays of September

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STUDENTS' cultural presentation

At the RAHS, young Muslims and Christians learn, study and grow up together in harmony

THE RAHS debating team

EDUCATION REVOLUTION

School bridges cultural divide

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

ANISAH Olama, president of Ramon Avanceña High School Parent-Teacher-Community Association, and Nonoy Elofre, immediate past president, visited recently the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's offices to deliver a simple message: "As our commitment to the Education Revolution, we want more young people in our community—both Christians and Muslims—to go to school."

Ramon Avanceña High School, just outside the Quiapo mosque on J. Nepomuceno Street, is the only public school in the country where young Muslims and Christians learn, study and grow up together in an environment free of religious bias and cultural animosity.

The FWWPP learned of the unique school because a member of Task Force Education Revolution is Rosie Laurel Avanceña, daughter-in-law of the eminent jurist Ramon Q. Avanceña, after whom the school was named in 1959.

The Avanceña family has nurtured and cared for the school, together with the PTCA and the faculty. This is probably one of the earliest examples of school adoption!

Principal Salud Sabado says the school caters to both Muslims and Christians because it is in a mixed community and "they are all here to learn." The current enrolment is 34-percent Muslim and 66-percent Christian. The school has an all-Christian faculty.

Enrolment declined from about 4,200 in 1975 to a little more than 1,000 this school year.

Apparently, increasing instances of violence caused by cultural friction in the community are seriously affecting the academic life of students and the school itself.

"How can the young people learn if they are afraid to go to school?" Olama asked.

Dr. Evelyn Mejillano of FWWPP immediately got in touch with Dean Carmen Abubakar of the University of the Philippines Institute of Islamic Studies, who said she would like to meet with the faculty and students of RAHS.

DEAN Carmen Abubakar, UP Institute of Islamic Studies

Alicia Lim, Social Studies teacher and PTCA secretary; Marta Brillantes, guidance counselor; and Mercedita Tolentino, Music, Art, Phyisical Education and Health Department head; together with Amalhaya Umpa, Razul Dilinogun, Raquel Gacias, Norshahani Mauna, Aleli Basco, Raphael Rex Magno and Samira Araz—all RAHS students—trooped to Dean Abubakar's office one rainy Wednesday afternoon.

They talked about how RAHS' students, faculty and PTCA could help foster an atmosphere of trust within the community.

Dr. Abubakar said "many things are done in the name of Islam, which is not correct." She said, in many instances, aggressive behavior stemmed from tribal practices rather than religious belief.

Islamic cultural or ethnic groups did not necessarily react the same way, Dr. Abubakar said.

The RAHS students were intelligent and clearly wanted to do something for themselves and their school, a source of pride for the community despite cultural differences. Through the years, RAHS has received numerous awards for academic excellence and community service.

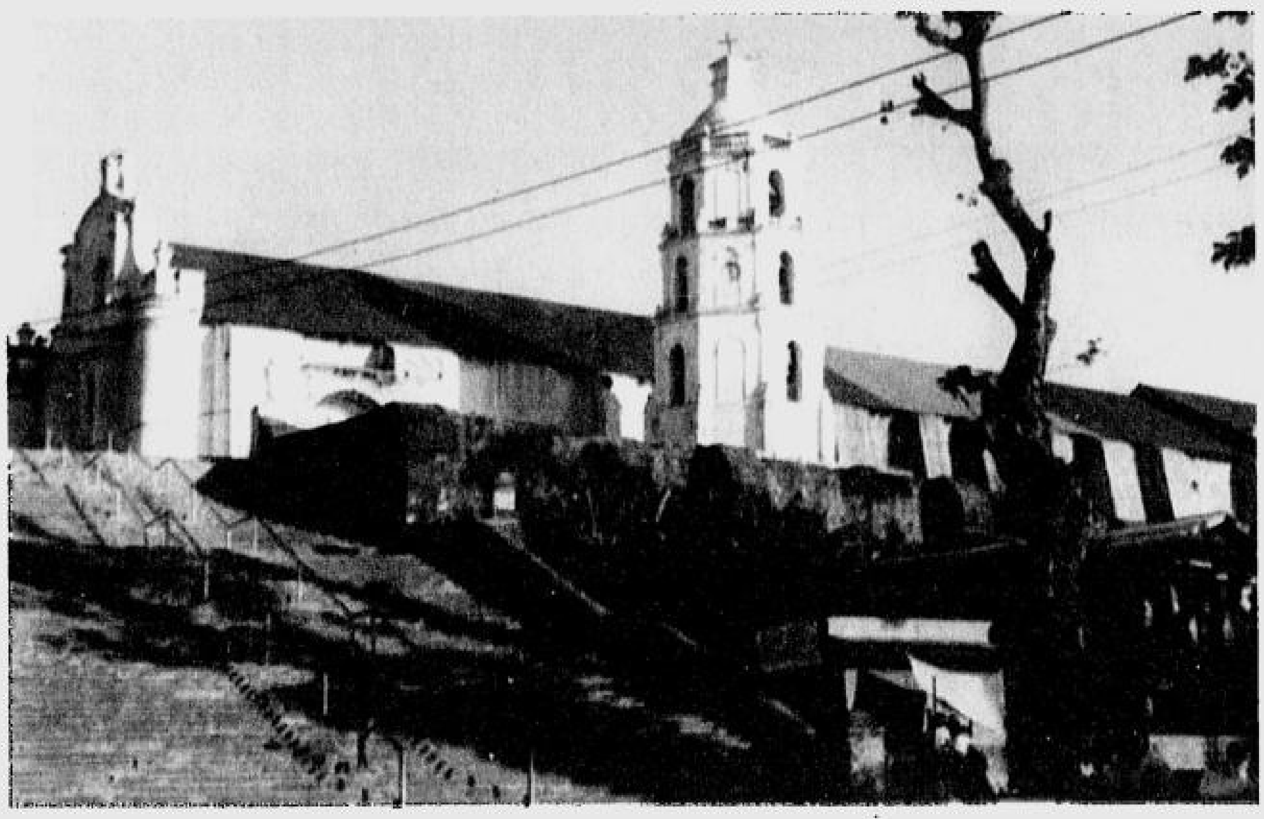
"Ayaw naming mapag-iwanan ng panahon [We don't want to be left behind]," said pretty Norshahani. Indeed, she and other young people like her deserve the best education they can get.

That can happen if the community they live in feels the same way. Well-meaning people like Dr. Abubakar have gone out of their way to show they care for young people like Norshahani.

Perhaps, we could all help in whatever way we can to foster religious and cultural harmony, and we don't have to go to Basilan to do it. We can start right here in the heart of Manila.

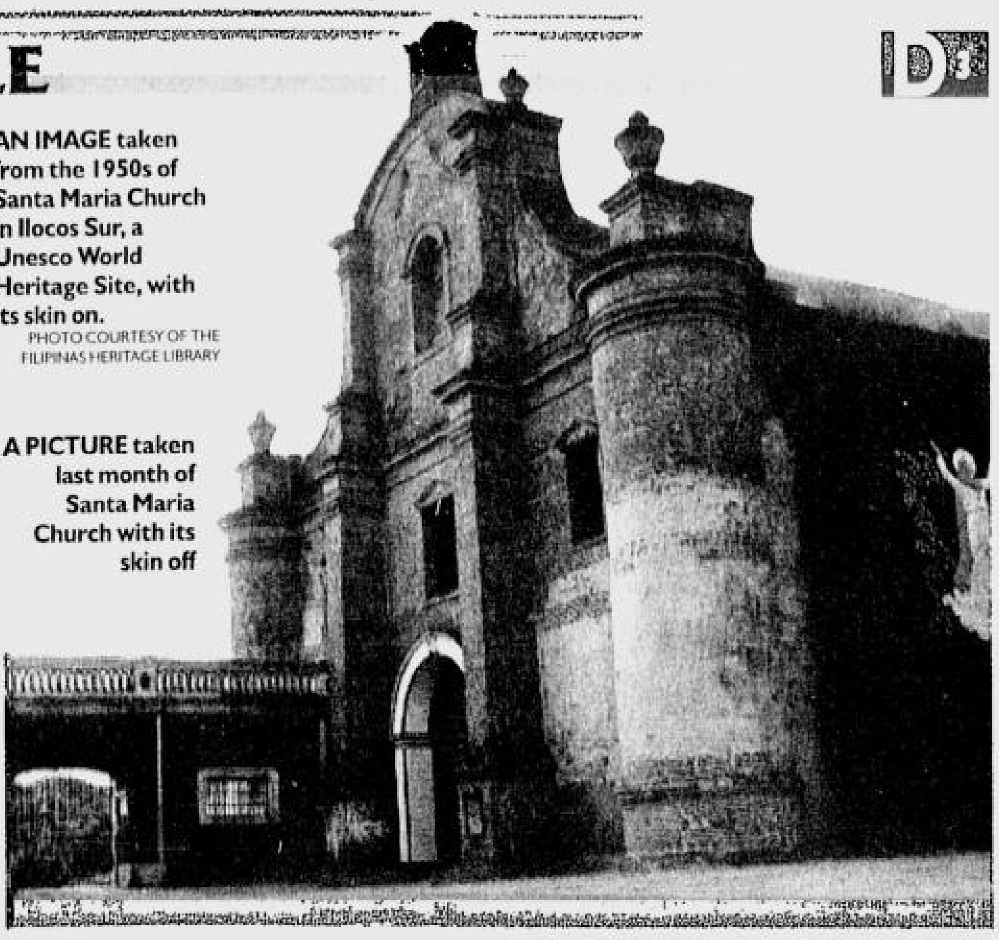
The parents, faculty and students of Ramon Avanceña High School, will show us the way.

The author is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.



AN IMAGE taken from the 1950s of Santa Maria Church in Ilocos Sur, a Unesco World Heritage Site, with its skin on.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FILIPINAS HERITAGE LIBRARY



A PICTURE taken last month of Santa Maria Church with its skin off

Skinning and destroying . . .

From page D1

used as the main mortar material as it was in Spanish colonial days. Never is cement allowed.

Cement is a man-made invention from the late 19th century. The strong acidity of cement reacts violently with lime, eating into the lime until it ultimately destabilizes the walls. If you want to kill an old wall, the best and surest way to do it is to put cement in it.

Palitada graphically shows in well-designed panels what types of walls lie hidden under *palitadas*. There are examples of different kinds of stonework, as well as samples showing the difference between structural brick and the durable glazed brick made in the Cagayan Valley strong enough for use as finishing material for building exteriors. Aside from walls of stone or brick, there are samples of built-up walls (*tabique*) with a panel of bamboo *sawali* standing as the center core, sealed with a plaster of lime mortar on either side.

The exhibition further shows that *palitada* can be decorative. In Paoay Church, an S-shaped *palitada* line follows the volute pattern of the massive church buttresses. The naïf architectural charm of a Tuguegarao church totally disappeared when the *palitada* decorations were stripped from its façade. Now it looks like a woman without eyebrows or eyelashes.

Palitada has both structural and aesthetic implications. That's why it should stay on.

The lessons the exhibition teaches are universal. The same methods Ricky recommends for saving church walls are also what can save houses built during the Spanish colonial era. After all, both were built with the same materials and construction technology.

For years, Ricky and I have talked *palitada*—over coffee, in committee meetings, or from behind speaker's podiums in the monthly conservation awareness seminars that we ran all over the country. In those trips we saw horrifying neglect and conservation blunders, so we worked to correct a few of those horrors, but getting to all of them was impossible. Many still go unattended.

Expect Ricky to protect more of our churches from the evils of man. That's his mission. The selfless way he pursues that mission has earned Regalado Trota José professional and national respect.

E-mail your comments and feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com

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A cast of over 60 in Ballet Manila's 'Swan Lake'

BALLET Manila continues to present the third production of its 8th season, "Swan Lake," the full-length Tchaikovsky ballet in three acts, on Sept. 26-28 at the sprawling Aliw Theater, Star City, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex.

KIROV Ballet soloist Dennis Firsov and Ballet Manila junior principal Elline Damian

Russia's People's Artist Sergey Vikulov has choreographed additional parts to the Lev Ivanov classical version for the all-Filipino production. Tatiana Udalenkova of the Russian Vaganova Ballet Academy is rehearsal mistress.

BM artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde said the production had a cast of over 60 dancers. New costumes were made by Gino Gonzalez. Set design is by Fred J. Elizalde.

The production will show that Ballet Manila's dancers are the strongest classically trained ballerinas and danseurs in the country.

Many of them were semi-finalists and finalists in the 9th Asia-Pacific International Ballet Competition in Tokyo last month.

The dual role of the enchanted Swan Princess Odette/Odile will be alternately performed by principal ballerina Lisa Macuja and junior principal Elline Damian.

Principal danseur Osias Barroso, guest soloist from the Kirov Ballet Dennis Firsov and senior soloist Eduardo Espejo will do the role of Prince Siegfried. Demi-soloists Mylene Aggabao and Marian Faustino will share the ballerina roles in certain performances.

Call 5255967, 4000292 or 4043086. E-mail info@balletmanila.net or visit www.balletmanila.net.

Visit Aliw Theater, Star City Compound, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Tickets to the ballet serve as entrance to Star City and ride-all-you-can gift certificates.

LISA Macuja-Elizalde as Odette in Ballet Manila's full-length "Swan Lake"

DEMI-SOLOIST Marian Faustino as Odile and Mylene Aggabao as Odette with BM senior soloist Eduardo Espejo as Prince Siegfried and Jonathan Janolo as the evil Von Rothbart

'KANSER' SHOWN WEEKENDS OF OCTOBER

Gantimpala Theater Foundation (GTF), in cooperation with the National Parks and Development Committed (NPDC), presents Jomar Fleras' "Kanser," 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Oct. 3-5, St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Vito Cruz, Manila. The play, based on Dr. Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere," will also be shown Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays the whole month of October in other venues. The cast includes Noel Rayos, Kimberly Diaz, Roeder Camañag, Banaue Miclat, Chiqui Xerez Burgos, Perry Dizon, Erick Madrigal and Pamela Hundana. Jake de Asis directs. Lights design by Jun Gomez and art direction by Derek Dolosa. Production manager is Jorge Cabullo. Tony S. Espejo is GTF president and artistic director. Call the GTF marketing office at 8995745 and 8963503.

UST Orchestra to play Prokofieff, Shostakovich at CCP

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, will present the UST Symphony Orchestra in a concert at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Under the baton of Prof. Renato Lucas, the orchestra will play the Prokofieff Piano Concerto No. 3, Arutunjan Trumpet Concerto, and the Shostakovich Symphony No. 1.

Featured performers are pianist Marites Fernandez and Taiwanese trumpet player Yeh Shu-han.

Fernandez earned her Bachelor of Music degree and an Artist Diploma at the UST Conservatory. She earned a Master of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland.

A multi-awarded pianist, she has also performed extensively in the United States, Canada, Peru, Germany and Southeast Asia.

Yeh is a much sought-after band conductor and trumpet soloist in Taiwan. A graduate of Paris Conservatory of Music, he is the principal trumpet player of the Taiwan National Concert Hall Orchestra and the conductor of the Taiwan Normal University Wind Orchestra.

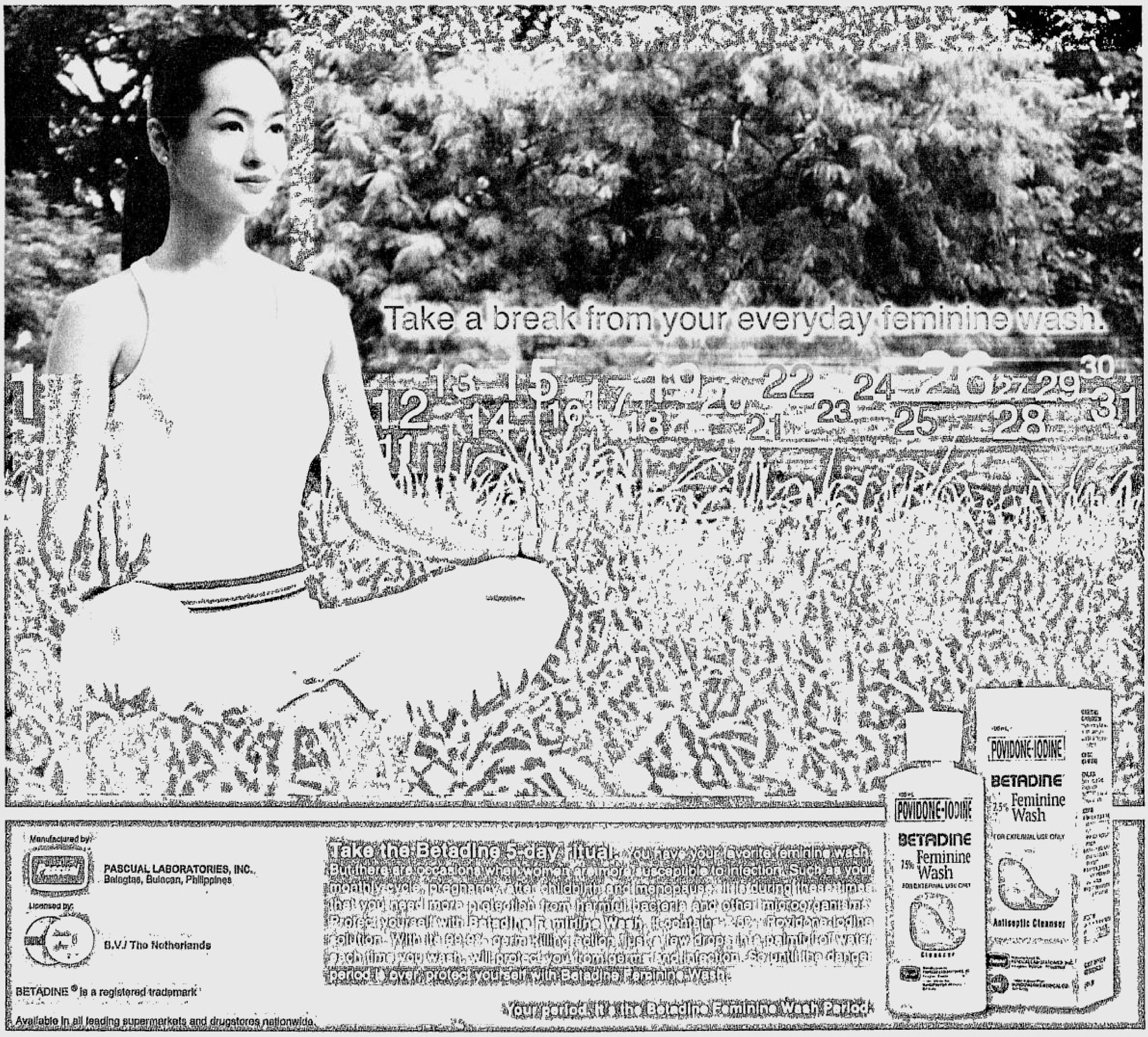
The concert is the first in the series of UST Conservatory presentations at the CCP. Other concerts are scheduled for Jan. 29, 2004 ("Tribute to the Thomasian") and Feb. 29, 2004 ("Sampung Mga Daliri atbp.").

"Tribute" features the UST Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Prof. Herminigildo Ranera, with soloist-pianists Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB, and Emilio del Rosario.

"Sampu" celebrates its 20th year, which features music especially arranged for 10 pianos, and showcases the various performing groups of the Conservatory which include its Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Band, Jazz Band, Guitar Ensemble, Rondalla, Coro Tomasino, Liturgikon, Chamber Ensembles.

Subscriptions to the concert series are accepted, which also entitle subscribers to attend various faculty concerts at the UST Conservatory of Music Recital Hall, featuring its many outstanding performing faculty.

Call the UST Conservatory (7314022, 7313101 loc. 8246) or the CCP box office (8321125)



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By Lito Zulueta

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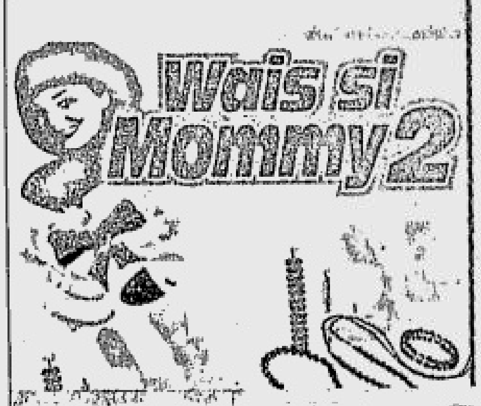

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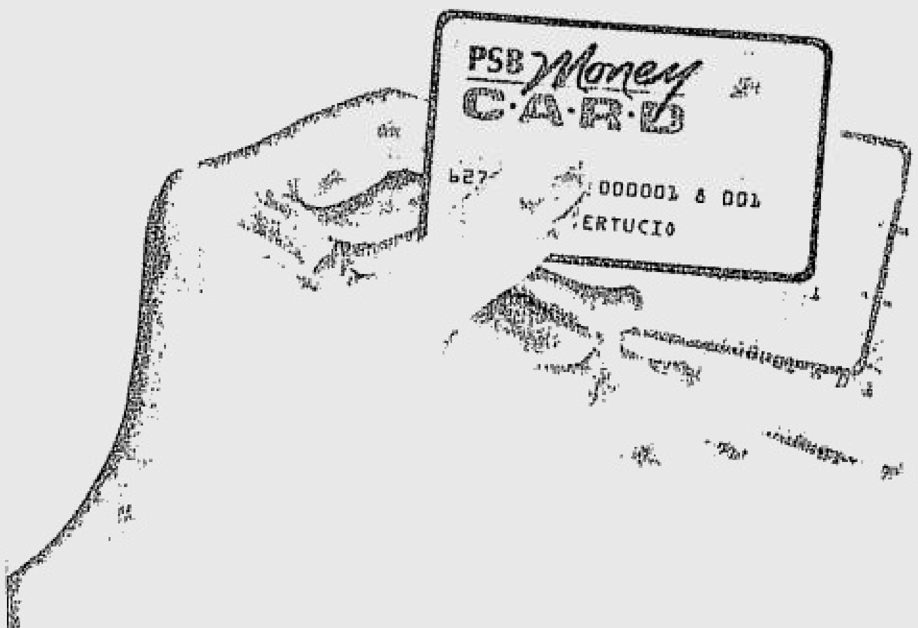

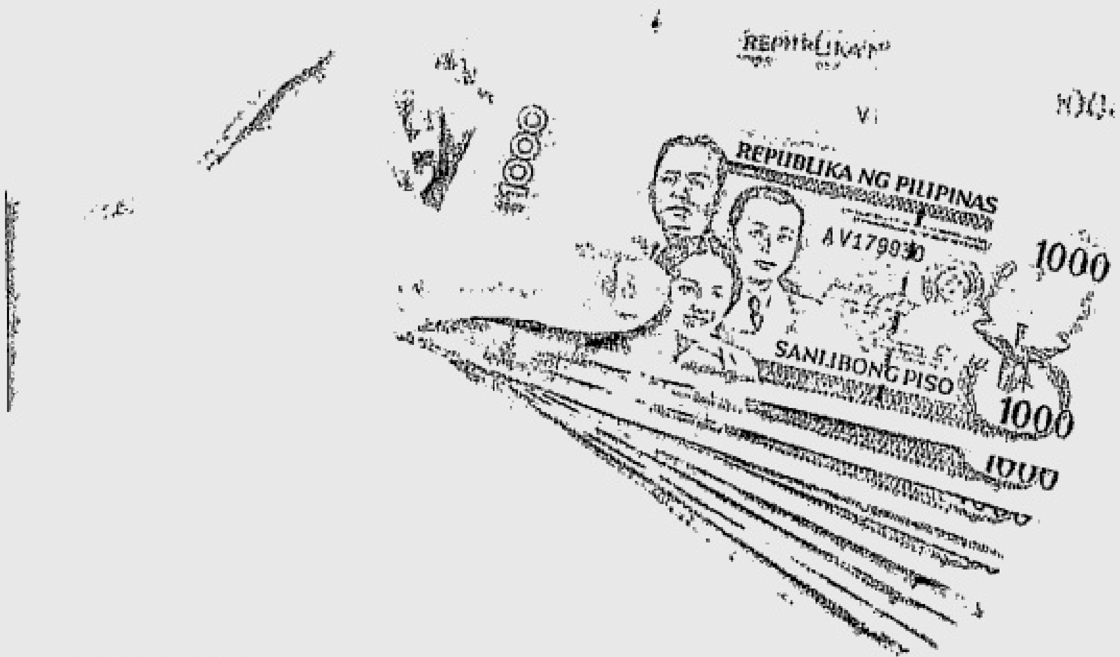

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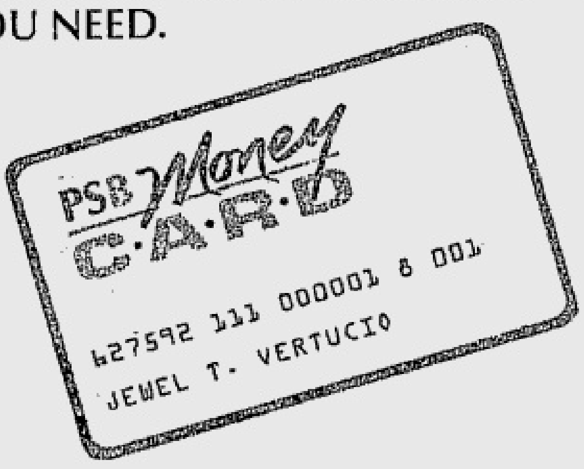

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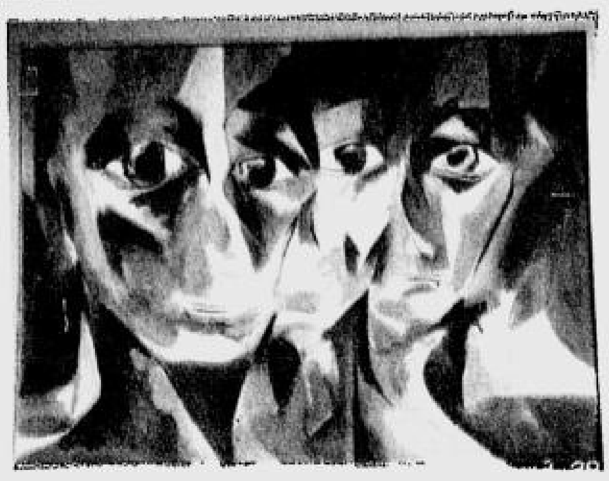
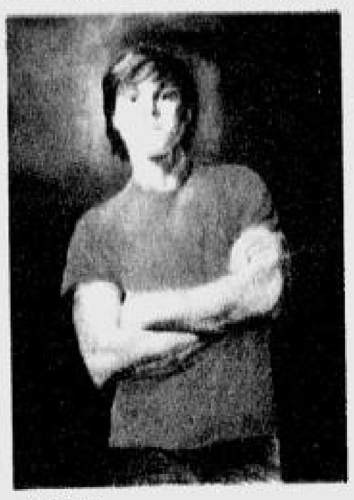

"ECHOING Egos"

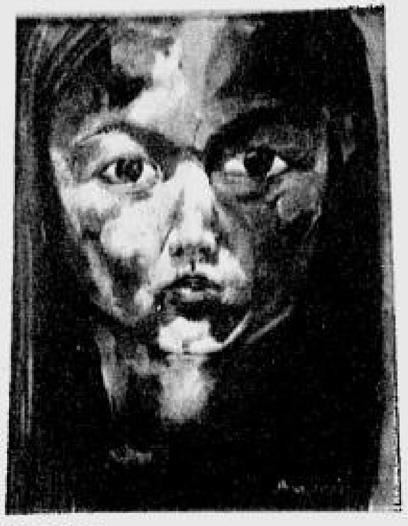

"BEN"

Jana Benitez signals style shift in NY show

YOUNG artist Jana Benitez recently exhibited in the residence of Ambassador to the United Nations Lauro Baja in New York and surprised everyone familiar with her past works with her sudden shift from cubism to realism.

The angst and insecurity depicted in her previous works took a backseat. She managed to capture the character and likeness of the portraitees so vividly that their presence penetrated the canvas.

Alongside the dozen or so realist renditions done in charcoal and acrylic, Benitez' 32 expressionist paintings showed her exploring more the imagination. She said the faces were the results of the richness of the inner self and the vastness of the imagination.


"AKO II"

Always an impressive colorist, Benitez now challenges herself with more subdued, at times minimalist, colors. "Echoing Egos" for example, is stripped of the loud fauvism that characterized her previous works. Its earth-colored visages are bolder and more raw.

For the artist, art is the rare convergence of the internal and external realms, which is achieved by painting her inner reality—layers of self as well as perceptions of the world—onto a canvas and into people's shared physical reality.

Thus, though seemingly melancholy, her art is celebratory: they celebrate the triumph of communication in its deepest and most personal level.

Cacnio at Nine, Jimenez at Glorietta

VISUAL ARTS

ANGEL Cacnio will mount an exhibit of his recent works in "Artist for the Nation" in Gallery Nine (4/L SM Megamall) on Sept. 25-Oct. 5. The 73-year-old veteran, who is set to mark his 50th year as an artist next year, showcases his signature Filipiniana depiction of folk dances and customs and genre scenes. Call 6877302.

THE DRAWING Room presents the works of Earl Enriquez until Oct. 4 at Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati. Twelve sculptures in bronze with varying patinas are featured.

WEST GALLERY features Pete Jimenez's "Steel Crazy" on Sept. 25-Oct. 7 at the 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. The artist transforms steel junk into steel art in totally surprising ways. Call 7527029.

PINTÔ Gallery mounts Tony Twigg's "Sugar Ballads in Bamboo Sticks" on Sept. 28-Nov. 9 in Sierra Madre, Grand Heights, Antipolo. Set among the cane fields of Negros, the installation evokes the landscape of the province.

SAMOY Arts Museum presents "Bacoor 332 Years September Fest Vigor Arts" until Sept. 30 on 025 E. Gomez St., Brgy. Campo Santo, Bacoor, Cavite.

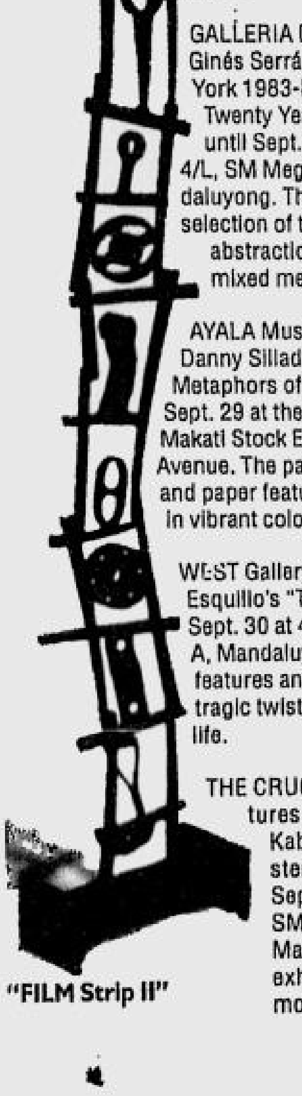
THE CRUCIBLE Gallery features Francisco Pellicer Viri's "The Reality of Abstraction" on Oct. 14-26 at the 4/L of SM Megamall, Bldg. A, Mandaluyong. The series of watercolors was inspired by the gardens-as-sculpture of Jerusalino Araos.

GALLERIA Duemila mounts Ginés Serrán Pagán's "New York 1983-Philippines 2003: Twenty Years of Paintings" until Sept. 30 at the Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong. The show features a selection of the artist's recent abstractions made of mixed media on canvas.

AYALA Museum showcases Danny Sillada's "The Metaphors of Dreams" until Sept. 29 at the ground floor of Makati Stock Exchange, Ayala Avenue. The paintings on canvas and paper features dreamscapes in vibrant colors.

WEST Gallery presents Alfred Esquillo's "Tragicomedy" until Sept. 30 at 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong. The artist features an artistic pun on the tragic twists and turns of daily life.

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery features Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan's "Monsters I.n.K.ed!" on Sept. 30-Oct. 12 at SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong. The exhibit showcases more than 30 new postcard-sized depictions of all-original creations by Ang I.n.K members.


"FILM Strip II"

FINALE Art Gallery mounts "Five," a group show of Pardo de Leon, Francesca Enriquez, Waling Waling Gorospe, Elaine Roberto Navas and Popo San Pascual. The show will be held on Sept. 26-Oct. 11 at the Art Center, SM Megamall A.

De Leon's works are about painting as a way to reach meditative state. Enriquez features multiple panels of figures, scribbles, graffiti and diagrams. Gorospe focuses on dusty old objects from the room of her late parents-in-law. Gates are the subjects of Navas. San Pascual returns to his cave drawings series.

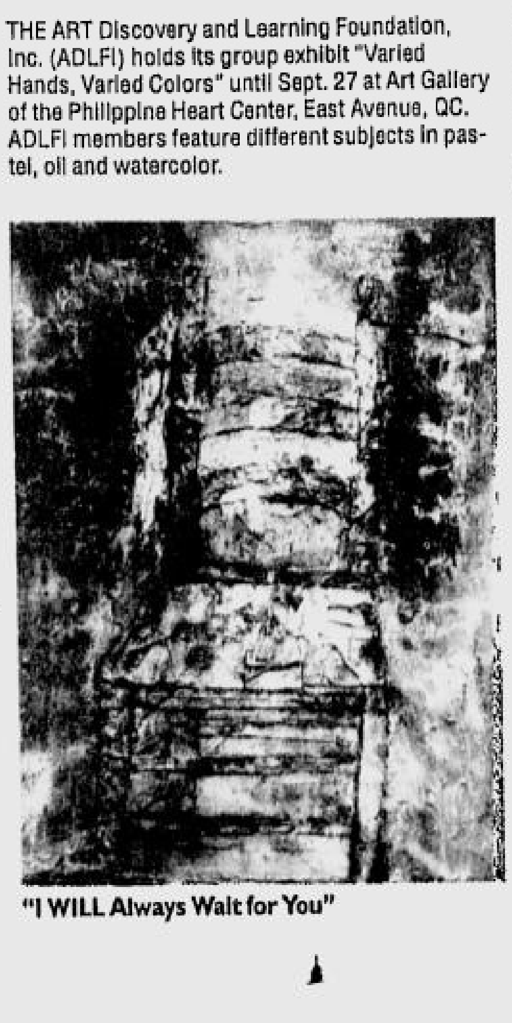
GALERIA de las Islas showcases Ruel Carlos' "Mukha" until Oct. 5 at the 3/F of Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The artist features his recent mixed media artworks of different masks with touches of gold and silver.

PINTÔ Art Gallery features Sandra Fable-Gfeller's "Paper Bag" at Gallery 1; Tammy Madrigal-Tan's works at the Gallery Shop; and Ivan Sarenas' "Taker of Pictures" at The House. All exhibits will be held on Sept. 26-Nov. 9 on 1 Sierra Madre, Grandheights, Antipolo.

Gfeller explores the play of flatness and solidity with her renditions of brown paper bags. Tan presents her series of old bottles embellished with painted and sculpted motifs and forms. Sarenas' photos feature striking images of different places and peoples.

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery holds Wilson Ma's "Laro Tayo" until Sept. 28 at the 4/L, SM Megamall A. The artist paints scenes of traditional Filipino games, combining realism and impressionism.

THE ART Discovery and Learning Foundation, Inc. (ADLFI) holds its group exhibit "Varied Hands, Varied Colors" until Sept. 27 at Art Gallery of the Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, QC. ADLFI members feature different subjects in pastel, oil and watercolor.


"I WILL Always Wait for You"

Not your typical 'idyllic' show

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

YOUNG visual artist Lyra Abueg Garcellano, on both sides, comes from an artistic-literary family. And this explains her intellectual, unconventional approach to art.

Her father Edel is a poet in English and a novelist in Filipino. Uncles Efren and Lem Garcellano are a painter and actor-writer, respectively. Elder sister Rhissa, Singapore-based, writes for a magazine.

Lyra's mother, Chato, belongs to the writing Abueg family of Cavite. She is an essayist-short story writer. Her sister Marcia Abueg Noche, California-based, is a painter.

In their Quezon City home, Lyra grew up in a house filled with books and with paintings, works by her parents' friends, like Danilo Dalena, Julie Lluch and Fernando Modesto, and also by her aunt Marcia.

And so it was not surprising that she would turn to writing, having inherited a facility with words and to visual art—painting, photography and illustration. "There was always that desire to draw," she says.

Her illustrations and cartoon series for this newspaper and Junior INQUIRER, while ostensibly aimed at children, reveal a droll, sophisticated sense of humor.

As a serious artist, Lyra rejects the label "conceptual" although some may describe her works as such. She, in fact, rejects all labels.

"It's difficult to live with labels," the artist says. "I'm an illustrator."

She adds," There is this fear of not understanding a painting. So conceptual *na kaagad* [immediately]. That's not the way it should be."

Two of her innovative works are featured in the group show of young talents, "Sungduan" (at the Pasig City Museum until Sept. 28). Show's curator is leading printmaker Imelda Cajipe-Endaya.

These are not the kind of works art collectors would go for, or display. Global domination is the theme of "Stilled Life," with its eight branding irons embedded on a world map. The irons represents the eight richest nations.

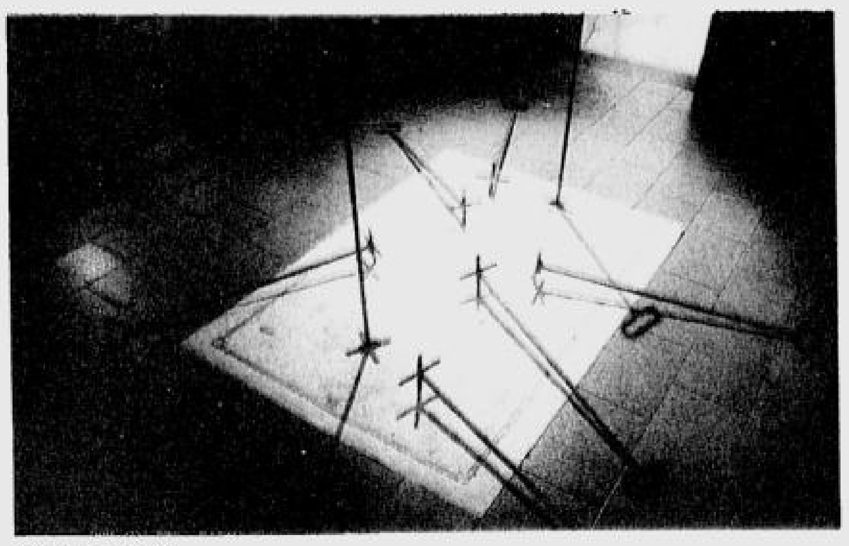
Also provocative is "Perishable Goods," a red wagon, buoyed by a red balloon, containing cutouts of the Filipino people in exile (as migrants).

Part of the show is a postcard, "A Filipino Girl," showing Lyra in Filipiniana costume. At the back of the card is the artist's Credo, sassy yet disarming: "I read books. I study. I analyze issues. /I am not pliant, meek or docile." And many more revelations.

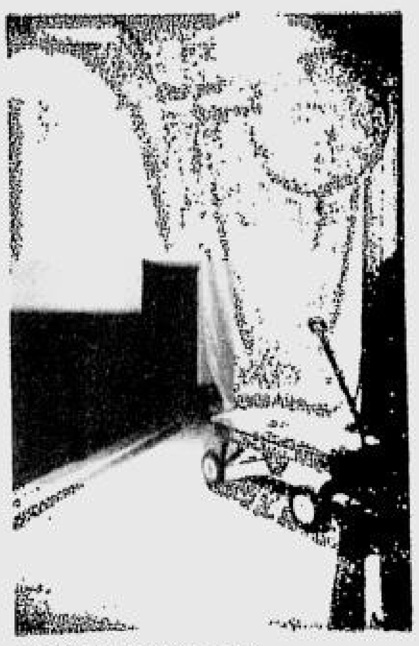
Comes now Lyra's first solo show, "Artificial Landscapes," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, also until Sept. 28.

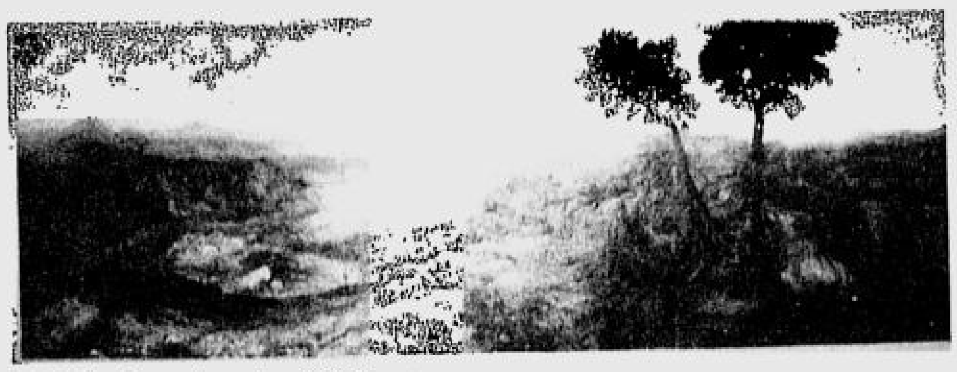
Between two large paintings are color photos which form harsh images of the metropolis. These are contrasted to the scenes of the countryside, mountains and valleys etched in dark, somber tones. The works are a study in decay.

"Artificial Landscapes" is not your usual "lyrical" and "idyllic" landscapes show.


"STILLED Life"

"A FILIPINO Girl"


"PERISHABLE Goods"


IDEAL landscape based on JMW Turner

Lyra Abueg Garcellano maps the landscape of her emerging art in a new show

Landscape corrupted by human hand

By Constantino C. Tejero

ARTIST Lyra Abueg Garcellano wants to redefine what has been defined. Of landscape, for example, she wants to strip it of its traditional notions and put it under a different light.

"It's something that I want to investigate, to explore," she says of artistic concepts and preconceptions.

This is borne out by her first solo exhibit, "Artificial Landscapes," until Sept. 28 at Pasilyo Guillermo Tolentino in the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Here, along one wall of the hallway, the artist juxtaposes ideal landscapes (rendered in oil on canvas) and naturalistic landscapes (photographs taken by digital and regular cameras). Both, by the way, are not what the artist believes a real landscape should be—the violent juxtaposition only enhancing the sense of the unreal.

One of these paintings she based on a landscape by Claude Lorraine, the most celebrated exponent of ideal landscape. It depicts a silvery lake, the dark water of a riverbend, brown earth, bluish sky, white cloudbank.

Another is a triptych of a valley or gorge flooded with light, two trees, misty blue horizon, bare earth, a sky touched by pink, yellow and gray. This was based on a landscape by Turner.

"They're pretty much the same colors as the originals," says Garcellano. "*Tinimpla ko lang.*"

Interspersed with the paintings on the wall are columns or clusters of photos she and a friend had taken of land development and urban decay: garbage dump trucks, flooded streets, golf course, railroad tracks, *esteros*, dead tree on a subdivision road, rubbish floating on bodies of water, golf balls on the grass, *calamansi* in the mud, sidewalk vendors, pedicabs and jeepneys, a dead rat.

All these, the artist is saying, are artificial landscapes, spoiled or enhanced, corrupted as they are by the hand of humankind.

The pieces are actually one large installation. They cannot be separated from one another, as they can be appreciated and apprehended only in relation to one another.

Since they're connected as a whole, they cannot be sold piece by piece. The artist laughingly says that if a buyer wants only the painting, anyway, she would just add the photos as bonus just so they won't get separated.

She's also contemplating film. "It's a dream. I really want to explore that—incorporate film and painting. For now, still photos *muna.*"

After graduating with an AB in Interdisciplinary Studies from Ateneo de Manila University, Garcellano took up Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines. She has since been associated with Surrounded by Water, the avant-garde group mentored by Roberto Chabet at UP.

She spent some time in Indonesia on a Unesco-Aschberg art program, and has exhibited in numerous group shows in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, Australia.

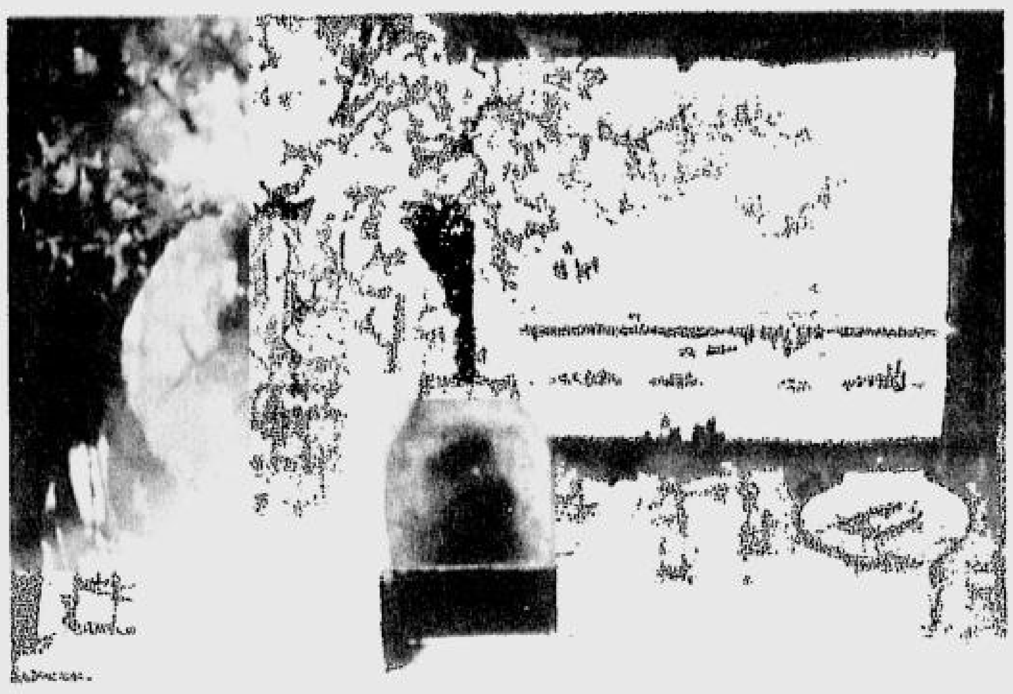
Art she admires includes the works of Barbara Kruger, Van Gogh, Nona Garcia, German multimedia artist Hans Haacke, and Paul Graham's photographs, Danny Dalena's prints, Fernando Modesto's old works, José Tence Ruiz's installations, Geraldine Javier's paintings, Nilo Ilarde's collages.

She's now working with a Japanese NGO to produce a brochure and primer for migrant Filipino women in Japan. She's going to turn it into a comic-book story for easy comprehension.

Though these days she does magazine and book illustrations as bread and butter, she just has to return to her art time and again.

"Even if it's *mahirap,*" she says of her artistic pursuit. "Because that's where I'm able to say something. Because, you know, my art is pretty much social commentary."

NATURALISTIC landscape



"STILL Life with Aquarium #1"

Doctor's colors wash over Davao

From page E1

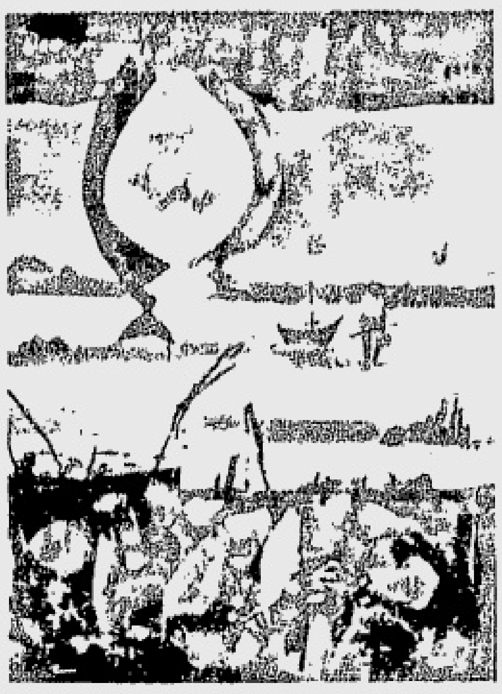
Diwa watercolor contest of Gallery Genesis. But its most supreme practitioner remains Edgar Doctor who continues to astound and mesmerize with the magic he can weave with just a wave of the brush and a little splash of water.

The magic is very much evident in "A Myriad of Colors," which opens on Sept. 26 and runs until Oct. 9 at the GenLuna Gallery of Davao City. It's Doctor's fourth show in the Mindanao city, and if he's not pulling out despite Davao having earned the rather undeserved depiction as bomb- and ambush-prone, it is because Davao knows a good watercolor painting when it sees one. In Davao or anywhere, Doctor is no washout.

Part of Doctor's staying power is his respect for the medium. He respects the gossamer transparency of watercolor and takes off from the limitations of the material. Watercolor as a transparent medium requires a firmness of conception and delicacy of execution. Doctor is equal to the double task.

The subjects he has chosen to paint show his grasp of the conceptual demands of a very limiting medium. The subjects range from still life to human figures such as fishermen in the act of casting their net and harlequins in gestures of absurdity.

In all of these subjects, the effect is neither artsy nor folksy, but dreamy. This is particularly true in Doctor's cityscapes in which he skillfully paints the pale lights of the pale city in a brilliant yet abstracted way, the abstraction somehow magnifying the pallid mysteries of the urban jungle.



"MORNING Catch"

In execution, Doctor skillfully applies his spattering technique that injects texture and highlight to his works. Generously applying high-grade Winsol and Newton, said to be the finest and most expensive watercolor brand, he achieves a very subdued but never staid effect on the works. And despite the spattering, the colors do not intrude into or blot out the previous strokes.

Cerebral, celebratory

A very cerebral yet celebratory artist, Doctor is sure of his aesthetics but he constantly challenges himself. Although his spattering is quite instinctive, the final effect is neither messy nor haphazard and shows a fine, controlling intelligence.

Doctor in fact remembers the late National Artist Victorio Edades, his teacher in aesthetics at the UST College of Architecture and Fine Arts, provoking the class to discuss and critique one another's works. The point was to challenge certain assumptions of the works and to compel students to be more conscious of their artistic designs and philosophies.

Those were heady days at UST. Aside from Edades, Doctor's teachers included Galo Ocampo, Rolando Llamas, Diosdado Lorenzo, Bonifacio Cristobal, Alejandro Celis, Virginia Ty and the Italian sculptor Francisco Monti. His classmates were Norma Belleza, Rogelio San Miguel and Manuel Rodriguez Jr.

Doctor remembers Lorenzo observing the students' works during a painting class, letting them do their thing most of the time, but intervening when needed. When he felt that something was amiss, Lorenzo himself would grab the brush and execute strokes on the drawing pad. "We didn't like it at that time because he would really apply heavy, insistent strokes that would nearly destroy our pads," Doctor said. "*Eh ang mahal ng drawing pad!*"

To this day, Doctor regrets throwing away those pads with Lorenzo's strokes on them. They were rough testaments to Lorenzo's genius.

They were also testaments to the modesty and selflessness of Lorenzo and artists of the Old School. Doctor would like to believe he belongs to that school. "Our generation never thought much of money, really," he said. "*Ang gusto naming makapaglikha nang maganda.*" He said the younger generation of artists and even art students are much too taken by commercialism.

The aesthetic discipline and personal modesty are very evident in Doctor's watercolors. They weave their magic without flash or fanfare. They linger in the mind. They are works of the soul that one can never hose down.

Two print shows at Avellana gallery

ONGOING until mid-October, two one-man shows at the Avellana Art Gallery exhibit the diversity and range of print art.

"Bulong" is Junjun Sta. Ana's first show. A dentistry graduate and self-confessed pack-rat, Junjun eventually found his true calling after working for a museum and creating dynamic window displays for the counter-culture clothing shop called Defect.

Sta. Ana creates a haunting series of digital prints from borrowed images transmuted into new forms interlaid with incantations lifted from charms or *anting-anting* given by a family friend, hoping to ward off further misfortune in the family. The resulting works play with undercurrents of emotional tension, reflecting the turmoil from a loss in the artist's family and Sta. Ana's oftentimes humorous view of the absurdity of the human condition.

Rich in meaning, the prints have bold visual appeal, draw viewers closer to inspect fine details, and tempt them to read aloud the incantations in the prints.

"Dripped Madrid" features the work of multi-media artist Noell El Farol, and marks a return to his first love: printmaking. Known as an artist specializing in glass, El Farol stretches his wings once more to embark on a journey of discovery as a printmaker. Striking a collaborative balance between intention and accident, randomness and order, naturalness and chromatic rawness, El Farol creates images that appeal to viewers and make them think.

Contrasting the subtle details of artworks by Spanish masters, El Farol interacts with these pieces by printing metallic drips—a process that creates drips of various colors and shapes on different classic reproductions and surfaces. Representing the beginning of a future series of "collaborations" with past masters, the exhibit holds a promise of more dynamic images to be shared with the viewing public.

The Avellana Art Galery is at House A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City. Call 8338357.

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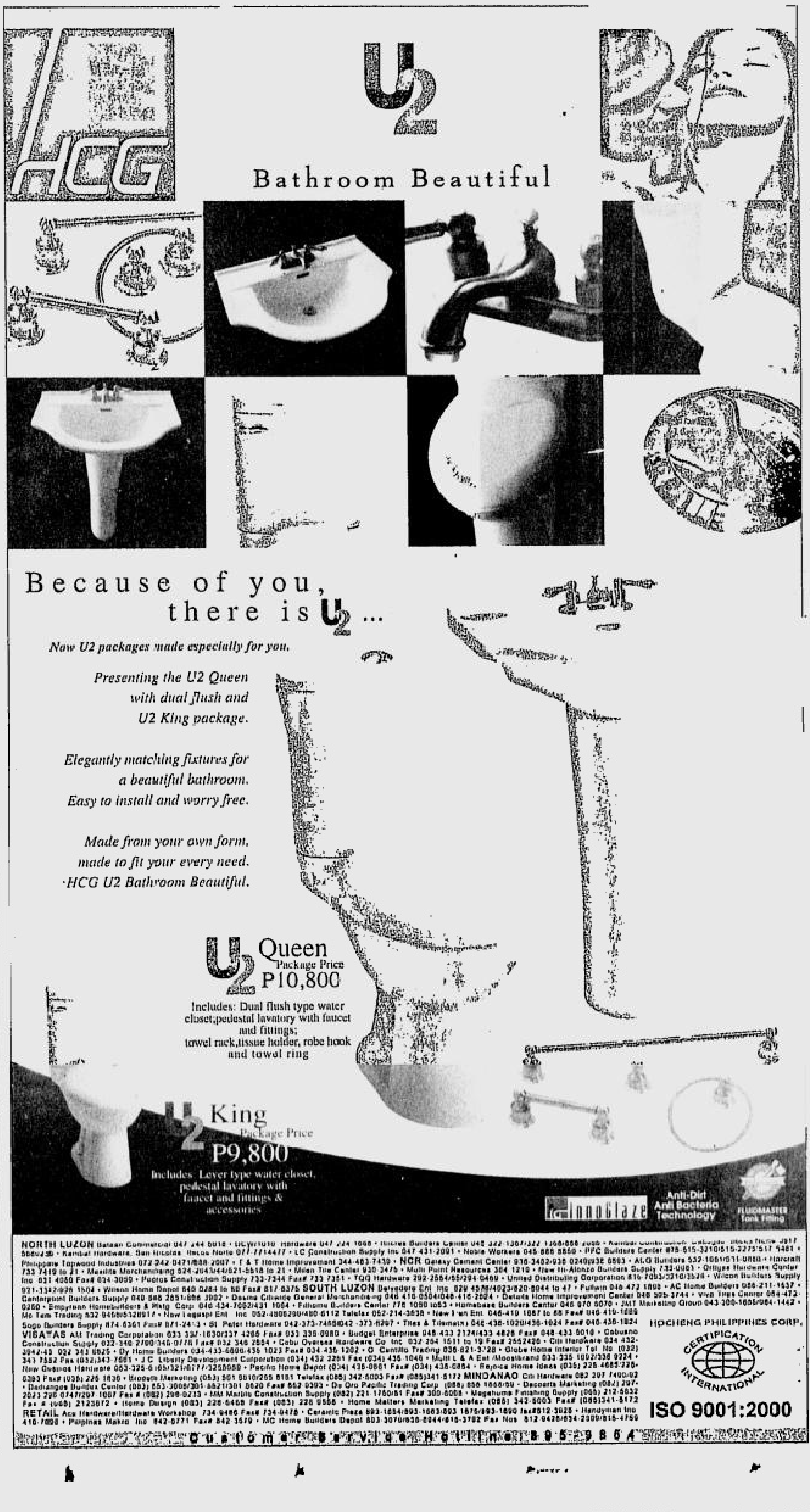

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The brilliance of the ordinary

By Constantino C. Tejero

ANOTHER young artist worth watching is Chati Coronel. Big proof was her exhibit "Devine Play," held recently in The Big & Small Art Co. at the Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall.

Now based in Los Angeles, CA, Coronel is a product of University of Santo Tomas from the elementary grades through college. She graduated with a degree in architecture.

The exhibit's information sheet has a mouthful about her art: "Influenced by Buddhist principles and constantly finding ways to adapt these into modern life, she catches that which is sacred in the ordinary and ordinary in the sacred. She translates wallpaper patterns, handwritten text and the human form into visual notes and algebraic equations that allow her to break these principles down and understand them. These paintings are her signposts along the path from abstract thought to physical manifestation."

Rather, we'd say these pieces in acrylic on canvas and on paper may have been influenced by the hues of Gauguin's Tahiti paintings, the limber elongated form of Kiko Escora's female figure and what else besides.

Here she merges the surreal and the merely decorative, the banal and the profound, the comforting and the disturbing—in monochromes evocative of the color tones of the earth, the sky, rotting leaves, faded flowers.

Religious symbols dot the canvas, ranging from the cross to the lotus. In most of the larger pieces, the female form emerges out of the swirling floral patterns.

"Hallowed Be" has a gray ghostly female nude amid a flurry of brown, maroon and pinkish acanthus leaves and flowers.

"I Am Faith" shows the profile of a lithe tobacco-brown woman in a flimsy chemise of yellow with a greenish tinge, black hair in a bun, amid greenish-white flowers. The canvas has an underpaint of pink and gray, tinged in parts with gold acrylic, and inscribed with the piece's title and *I am listening*.

"Empty/Full" has a golden profile of a naked woman half-covered with bed sheet and a frontal view of another naked female form in reddish-brown bikini. The ochre and pinkish floral prints of the brown bed sheet reach up to the brown wall. A golden inscription says: "Everything contains its opposite."

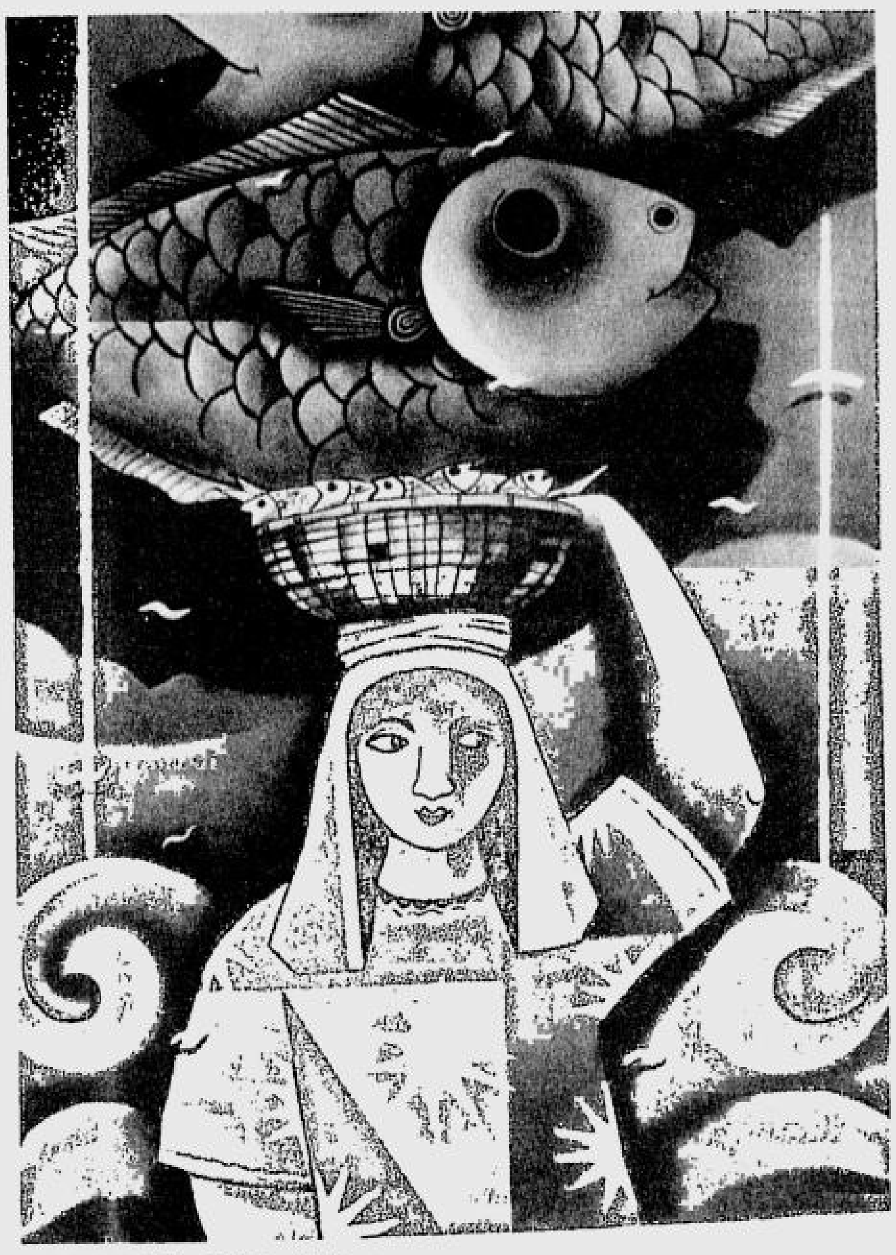
"Only This Moment" has a light-brown profile of the Nefertiti bust connected by the orange columnar headdress to an inverted pinkish female in frontal view, against a cerulean background with a swirling line of pink-and-yellow flowers with red sepals. Both female forms are naked, and both could be the same woman in different angles. Between them a large pink lotus bloom floats on the blue.

A piece in ochre, gold and maroon shows the frontal view of a naked woman with a monstrance for head and a brown basin floating above like a halo. Beside the figure is the full regalia of ecclesiastical garment and miter, embroidered with the wallpaper floral pattern. Here the hieratical and the banal, the sacred and the profane, intersect.

The smaller pieces are sketchy and semi-abstract. Also dominated by earth tones of brown, gold, maroon, and accentuated by white, cream, pink, red, they show nude female figures, crotches and thighs, crosses and flowers (some depicted as labial forms, as in "Orchid Cup").

As the info sheet says, the artist "attempts to chronicle her spiritual life." But even without that high-minded note, these paintings can be enjoyed on the visual level, apprehended by the viewer's primal sense of the beautiful.

"The purpose of my work is to call out to the brilliance that already exists in all of us," says the artist. "My hope, in letting these pieces shine out, is to activate joy and amplify the latent magic in ordinary life."


"TINDERA," by Aris Cecilio Bagtas

Coronel's journey of faith, Bagtas' fertile vision of Obando

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THE DOMINANT figures on her canvases are all women, creatures caught in seemingly perplexing poses and gestures, and radiating their own energies into the vast, surrounding space.

Their bodies are lithe and supple, at once strong and delicate, the seemingly fragmented parts of humans emerging from a rich panoply of intricately designed drapery. They have come from the interior realm of a consciousness steeped in the nonmaterial, spiritual realm, which is the crux of her artistic faith.

Chati (for Charity) Coronel's "The Dakini Principle (Goddess Manifest)," at the Choice Expression Gallery, The Podium (ADB Avenue, until Sept. 28), is a follow-through of her impressive debut, "Lila: Devine Play," at The Big & Small Art Co.

Based in Los Angeles, California, with her husband, the equally talented Filipino-Canadian filmmaker Edber Mamisao, Coronel has had a couple of sellout shows in Los Angeles and Toronto, both mounted earlier this year.

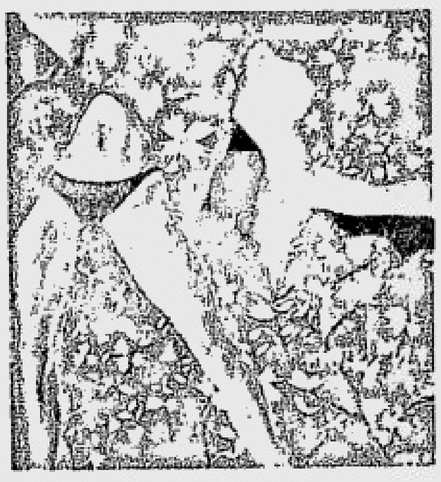
The show is clearly the art of a woman who, after a restless search, now revels at her own image, capturing the spiritual armor that makes her free, independent and truly human.

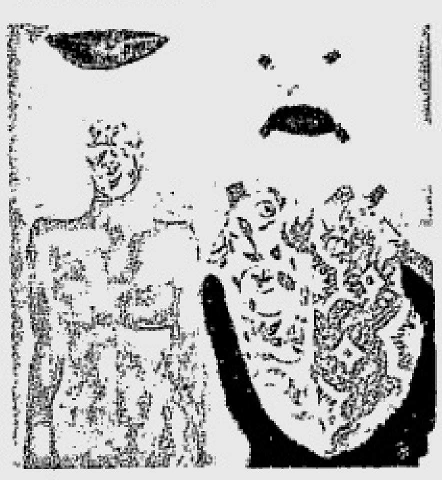
Indeed, Coronel's chosen subjects are self-portraits of the artist herself, her seeming likeness transposed, as it were, in a tableau with richly flowing environment, a virtual sea of life—affirming lotuses and flowering blooms.

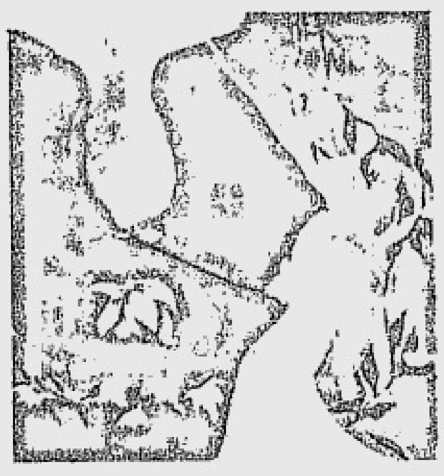
In "I Am Faith," we see the dark contours of her body, silhouetted amid huge white petals, an affirmation of her feminine self. In "Blessed," the flower child is about to receive her own mantra as signified by the gently admonishing hand by her side.

In "Under Construction," she is shown flexing her arms and, with hands tightly clasped, consolidates her newfound strength.

As many of the works document the artist's spiritual transformation (she confesses to having been formally converted to Buddhism, as in the give-away word in the title "Dakini," meaning "Buddhist"), the images evoke the intensely religious connotations the change has permeated in the process of art-making.


"EMPTY/FULL," by Chati Coronel


THE HIERATICAL and the banal, the sacred and the profane


"ONLY This Moment," by Coronel

With the Buddhist value placed on the present, the artist, in "Only This Moment," shows two intertwined figures, their heads seemingly locked up in deep meditation, attuned to each other, amid the inner horizon.

Coronel likewise make integral use of visual puns, as in "Brilliant Naked," where the almost naked body of her subject is shown side by side with the rich finery emblematic of the material world that she has abandoned.

The art of Chati Coronel finally derives its appeal from the mythical philosophy and worldview that espouses Nature as passing through the universal cycle of change—of life and death—in the totality of the human experience. Her liberation as woman and artist, as this show amply proves, has just begun.

Bagtas' vision

For Aris Cecilio Bagtas, the journey motif takes on a truly Filipino folk sensibility, with the religious theme as the guiding and controlling force.

Using the rites and rituals of the Obando folk as they embark on a trek through the road and the town's waterways, Bagtas captures the fervid faith of his people who carry the revered images of San Pascual Bailon, Santa Clara and Nuestra Señora de Salambao.

The show "Paglalakbay" (Renaissance Art Gallery, until Sept. 29) is the artist's tribute to his birthplace and hometown. With its folk steeped in almost fanatical display of religiosity, Obando, in Bagtas' imagination, may well be the quintessential Philippine town.

Here, the people's religious fervor catches its peak in the rites of May when the people literally go to town with their celebration of the fiesta in honor of their patron saints.

The mood in his paintings is ostensibly merry and festive, as the subjects go through their rites in dance ("Panata"), which shows a childless couple pleading for divine intervention to grant them their only wish.

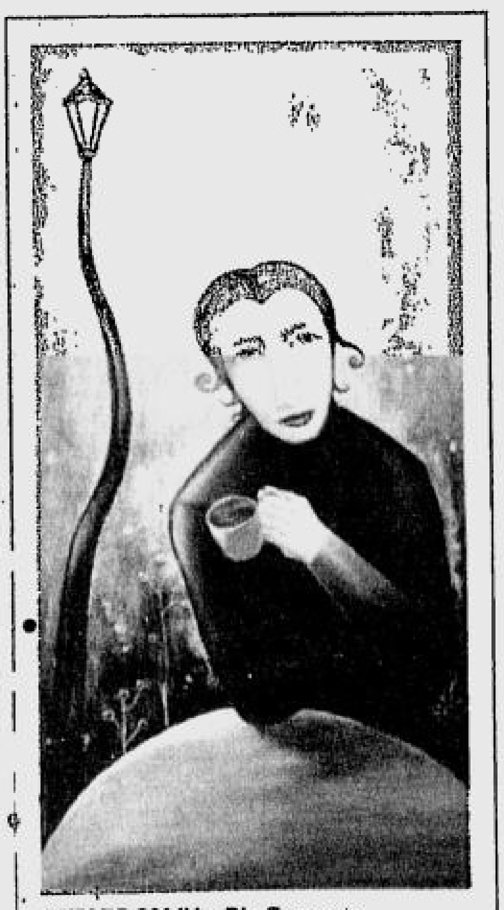
In "Lako," the subject is that of an ambulant fish vendor, carrying atop her head a basket of fresh catch from Obando's river that juts out to the sea.

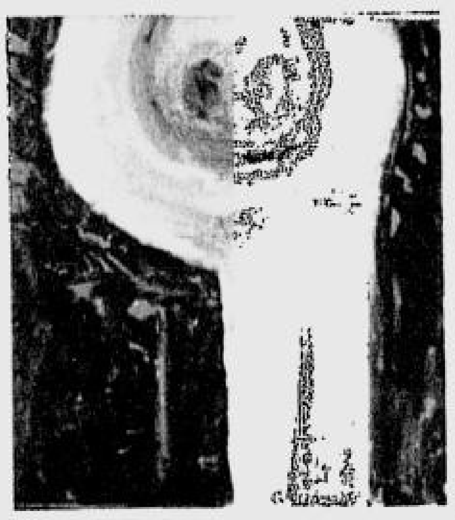
Bagtas switches focus from his depiction of ritual to dwelling place in "Bahay na Luma sa Obando," where a family is shown in prayerful pose before the window that serves to frame the subjects while observing the passing procession.

Bagtas—artist, teacher and cultural leader—has ventured far into the widening space afforded by urban migration and national diaspora.

But, while all this time remaining a loyal and devoted son of Obando, he has wisely stuck to his roots, the question of identity taking precedence in his continuing journey through life and art.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com


"STARBOX," by Bin Samonte

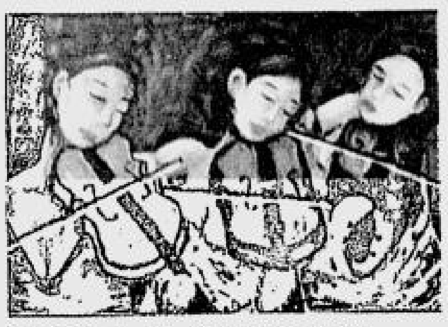

"AGNUS Dei," by Henri Cainglet

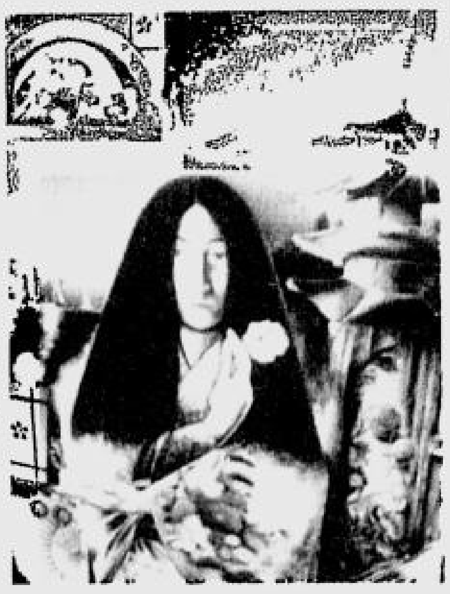
'Decagon' at Astra shows diverse styles

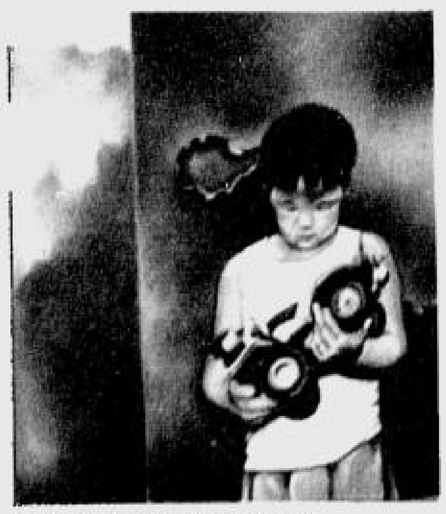
GALERIE Astra in Makati places 10 artists side by side, presenting an enclosure of diverse angles of style in "Decagon," which opens today and runs up to Oct. 4.

Viewers will be treated to a wide selection ranging from wit and whimsy from Jef and Bin Samonte, intensity and passion from Anton Balao and Tres Roman; the vivid renditions of Yveese Belen and Romeo Forbes, surreal earthiness from Rex Tatlonghari and Elios Santos; ruminations and perplexity of Henri Cainglet, and detailed precision of Noli Manalang's pop iconography.

Galerie Astra is located at the 2nd floor of LRI Business Plaza, 210 N.Garcia St. (across Alliance), Makati City. Call 8903988.


"FOR St. Cecilia," by Anton Balao


"YOKO Oh No!" by Noli Manalang


"AT LAST!" by Elios Santos

Baluyut and Tioseco go abstract in Joaquin show

KARINA Baluyut and Gino Tioseco open a two-man show of abstract art, "Dessins et Peintures" (Designs and Paintings), at Galerie Joaquin on Sept. 25, at 7 p.m.

The show features 50 works in various media, including acrylic on canvas, acrylic on paper, mixed media, watercolor and pastel.

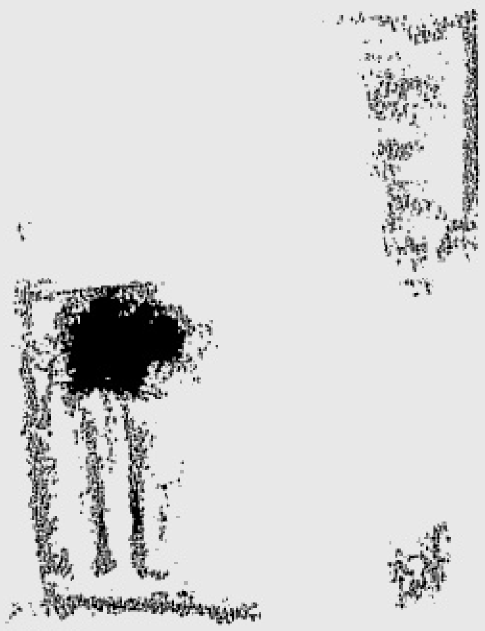
Both Tioseco and Baluyut are leading members of the Guevarra Group of Artists. Both are also designers, Tioseco having a degree in interior design and Baluyut an architecture degree. This will be Tioseco's fifth exhibit and the first for Baluyut.

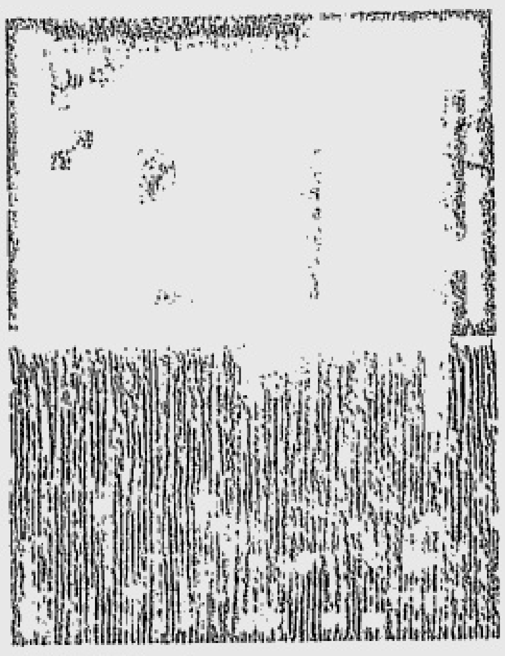
It has been an interesting journey and discovery for Tioseco who four years ago studied art under the tutelage of Dimasalang group and Magic realist painter Jaime Roque. Tioseco admits that his major influences are Modigliani, Onib Olmedo, Chaim Soutine and the British romanticist painter W. Turner.

Tioseco is known for his expressionist distortions of faces and figures. Lately, he has shown the influence as well of the Chinese artist Zoo and the abstract artist Wu-Ki. Baluyut's influence is Paul Klee.

Tioseco's works are almost Zen-like in their composition and treatment. Baluyut's concerns are sharp colors, textures and lines.

Galerie Joaquin is at 371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 7239253 and 7239418.


GINO Tioseco


KARINA Baluyut

A young novelist's Midas touch

"The Sky Over Dimas"
By Vicente Garcia Groyon
De La Salle University Press, 2003, 258 pages

By Rosario Cruz Lucero
Contributor

REVIEW

WHEN we read a first novel, especially if it's written by someone only in his late 20s when he began it, we are ready to be kind and generous with encouragement. But Vince Groyon doesn't need any of that, for with this first novel he has struck literary gold, and we can only hope that the next one is already in the making. Granted the amount of tedious labor that must have gone into this book, it is also ample evidence of Groyon's enormous talent that his touch is as natural and straightforward (i.e., without the craft-conscious, attention-getting flourishes) as Midas's, with nary the deadening effect.

The novel's basic plot is a rescue mission that Negros haciendera Margie Jarabas Torrecarrion calls on her son Rafael to undertake. George, Margie's loony husband and therefore Rafael's father, has been holed up with a worker's daughter in the abandoned manor of Hacienda Dimas for three months now. It's the only kind of reason that would make Rafael, now living in Manila, break his resolve never to set foot in Negros ever again. He dutifully returns to Bacolod, spends a night there before driving to the hacienda located a few hours from the city, and takes his father back in an ambulance.

Hitting the fan

What happens in between these plot points is the literary equivalent of a fruitcake hitting the fan. From its opening sentence, the reader guesses this right away: "The fact is: George Torrecarrion went crazy."

Rafael's return to Bacolod triggers an explosion of reminiscences, authorial flashbacks, plot detours, mini-biographies of bizarre characters, and cameo appearances of eccentric types with familiar names identified with the Negros elite, such as Cuaycong, Lizares, Jalbuena and, of course, Lopez. The only fictional names, which you won't find even in the phone book, are those of Rafael's two-pronged clan: Jarabas and Torrecarion.

George has relinquished responsibility for the "farm," a term which hacenderos—intending neither modesty nor irony—use to refer to their vast tracts of sugarland. He is besotted with a slew of cockamamie ideas, ranging from alien abductions to astral and time travel to pyramid therapy. Negros society decides he has finally gone "full-tilt loco" when one day he fancies himself "Bacolod's defender against evil" and sweeps into the city's most popular diner brandishing a rapier. "He lunged, parried, thrust, and touchéd through the smokers' arbor, harvesting white blossoms and leaves from the canopy of vines along the way."

When George's father Don Raul warns him about the sugar industry's imminent collapse and the desperate need for diversification, George responds with another brainchild, an investment in wonder fuel, which turns out to be a dud, and so he drags the family fortunes down.

Margie, his wife, is no saner. By the novel's second and third pages, she is caught shoplifting cheap plastic religious medals, goes into manic-depressive fits, does an Isadora Duncan imitation, "trailing fourteen feet of diaphanous gauze curtains borrowed from the windows" (a costume matched in its outrageousness only by George's embroidered muumuus), and discourses on a range of subjects as esoteric as her husbands' own interests. And this despite her daily dose of lithium for the last 20 years.

When last we read about her, in the last chapter, she has turned into a hyperbolic version of the born-again charismatic, wearing "gypsy-like assemblages of various articles of clothing."

Rodel, the elder of their two sons, has taken over the management of the hacienda and is killed early on in a plantation fire. With Groyon's dexterous handling of time and suspense, the reader doesn't find out until several chapters later what or who causes the fire. Only Rafael survives, his mind and body intact—largely because he has escaped Negros through a UP scholarship—but his soul lonely and wounded. He carries on a desultory love affair with Camille, and we are not surprised at how it turns out by the novel's end.

But the novel is a photo album of ha-

A YOUNG/ F4

AUTHOR
Vicente Groyon

The Negros elite is focal point of a comic novel

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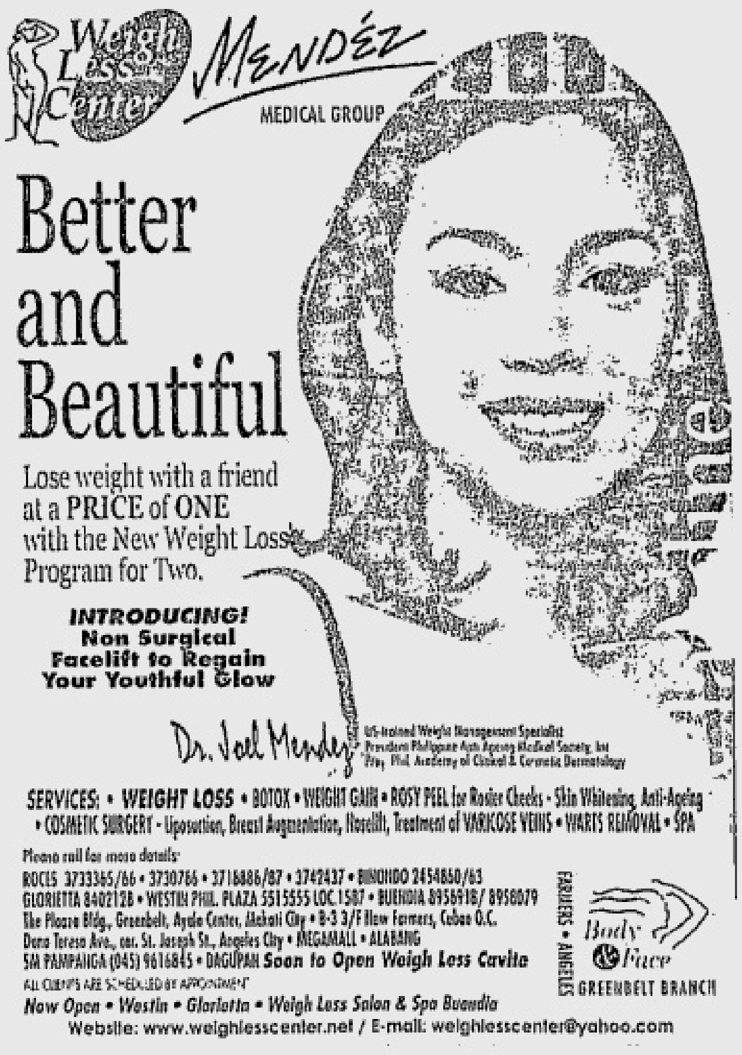

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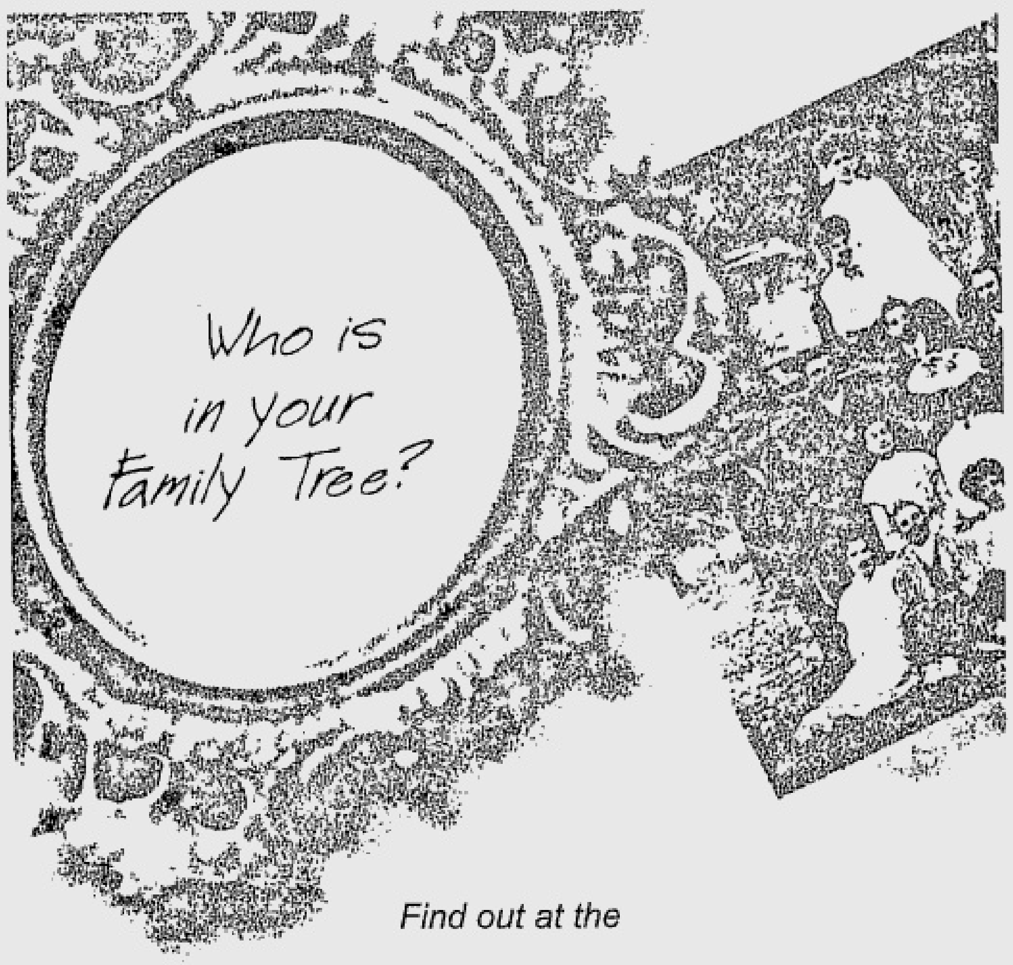
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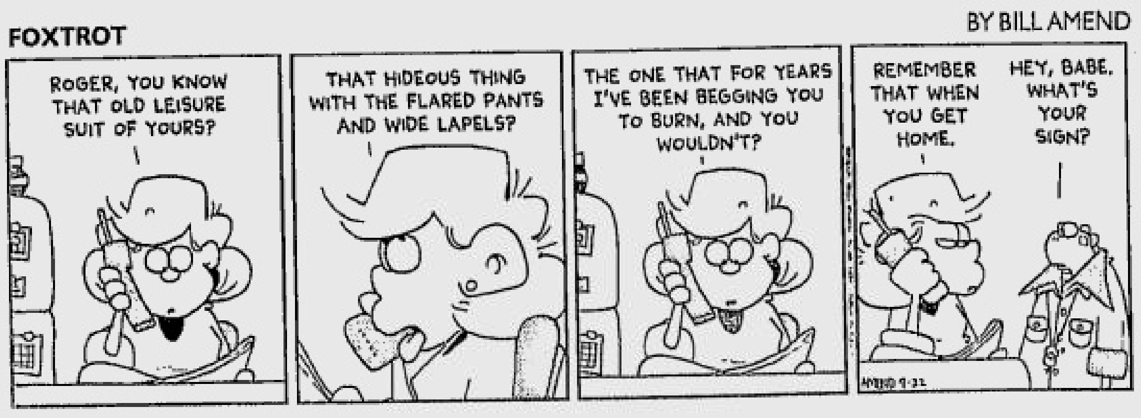
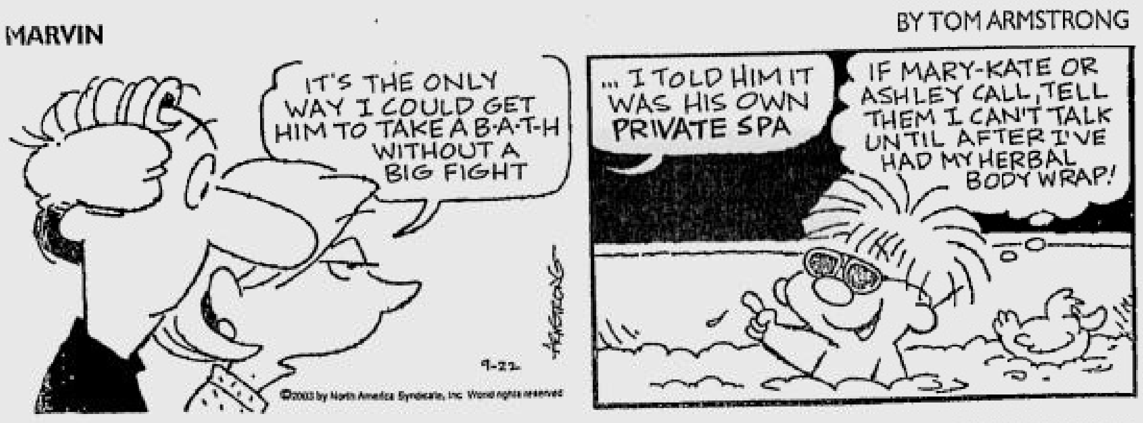

ROGER, YOU KNOW THAT OLD LEISURE SUIT OF YOURS?
THAT HIDEOUS THING WITH THE FLARED PANTS AND WIDE LAPELS?
THE ONE THAT FOR YEARS I'VE BEEN BEGGING YOU TO BURN, AND YOU WOULDN'T?
REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU GET HOME.
HEY, BABE. WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?
AMEND 9-22

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IT'S THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET HIM TO TAKE A B-A-T-H WITHOUT A BIG FIGHT
... I TOLD HIM IT WAS HIS OWN PRIVATE SPA
IF MARY-KATE OR ASHLEY CALL, TELL THEM I CAN'T TALK UNTIL AFTER I'VE HAD MY HERBAL BODY WRAP!
9-22
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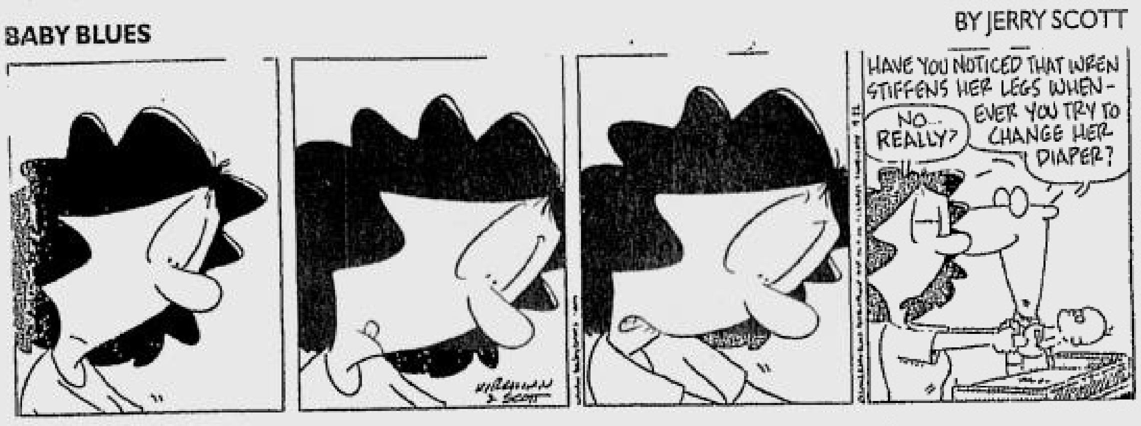
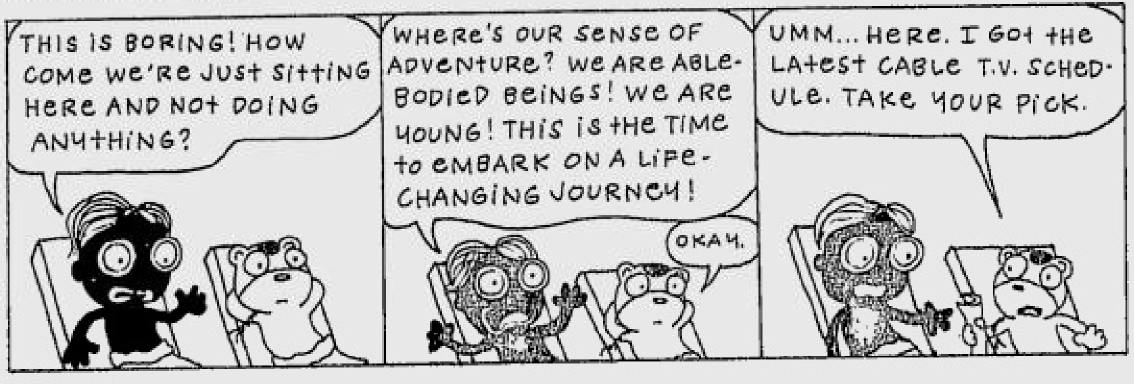
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT WREN STIFFENS HER LEGS WHENEVER YOU TRY TO CHANGE HER DIAPER?
NO... REALLY?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THIS IS BORING! HOW COME WE'RE JUST SITTING HERE AND NOT DOING ANYTHING?
WHERE'S OUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE? WE ARE ABLE-BODIED BEINGS! WE ARE YOUNG! THIS IS THE TIME TO EMBARK ON A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY!
OKAY.
UMM... HERE. I GOT THE LATEST CABLE T.V. SCHEDULE. TAKE YOUR PICK.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're highly individualistic. You are also perceptive. Many things intrigue you, and you're often at a loss about what to pursue first. You have an offbeat sense of humor. You are both outgoing and introverted. It's time for you to let go of things). A major cycle in your life is ending to make way for a new one. **Birthdate of:** Fay Weldon, novelist; Andrea Bocelli, tenor; Frodo and Bilbo Baggins,fictional characters from "The Lord of the Rings."

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to make improvements and changes to creative projects. Your ability to edit, delete, throw out and enhance is excellent now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might be able to think of ways to save money at home or within your family dynamic. You want to be able to keep what you have and cut your losses.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Advice from someone close to you could help you in important partnerships and relationships. Others have the advantage of seeing what is happening without being involved.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to shop for plumbing supplies or anything related to garbage, laundry, sewers and septic systems. It's also a good day to buy medical supplies

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel passionately and more intense about everything today. Fortunately, you are in good humor, and ready to take or give a joke.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is the perfect day to make improvements to your home. Start by getting rid of items and junk that you rarely use. Be ruthless!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have a strong urge to give others advice today. Your intention is to help them or improve them in some way. While your motivation is excellent, others might not appreciate your interference.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an excellent day to talk to important people about anything that matters to you. Others will definitely listen now. They might even follow your advice!

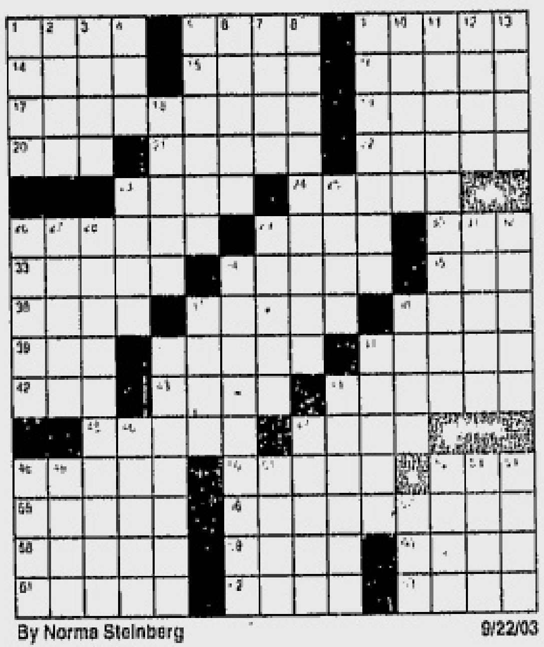
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Most Sagittarians love the outdoors and animals. Today is an excellent day to do anything that will improve your appearance or your health in some way. Go out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If you spend time dealing with red-tape details like insurance matters, bills, estates and sorting out shared property, you'll make good headway today. You're ready to make compromises.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Intense discussions with friends might change your mind about something. More likely, you will change their minds, because you were born 50 years ahead of your time.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't hesitate to make suggestions that can improve matters at work. You have good ideas; speak out!

DAILY CROSSWORD



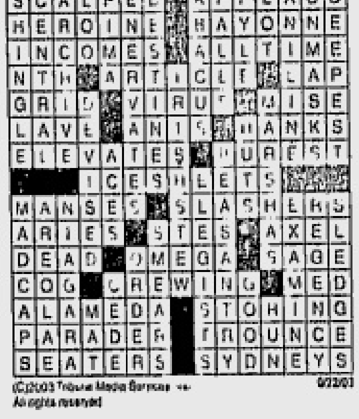
By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

9/22/03

ACROSS
1 Small inlet
5 Competent
9 Epic tales
14 Carpet-seller's measurement
15 Skirmish
16 Genetic copy
17 Mercantile agreement
19 Somewhere __ the way
20 Building wing
21 Authorization
22 Drive in Beverly Hills
23 Downhill wear
24 Former capital of Scotland
26 Legendary
29 Actress Campbell
30 Have a bite
33 Mountain nymph
34 Filleted
35 I love, in Latin
36 Remainder
37 Piano technician
38 Blueprint
39 Blasting letters
40 Bit of gossip
41 Swanky
42 Yokohama OK
43 Diminishes
44 Church donations
45 Orange variety
47 Moving vehicles
48 Sheriff's gang
50 Film cuts
52 Book before Nah.
55 Detest
56 In preferable circumstances
58 Peter of Herman's Hermits
59 Israeli airline
60 Data
61 Stitched
62 Cosmo rival
63 Say Hey Kid

DOWN
1 Bistro
2 Of the mouth
3 Bridal netting
4 Part of a pitcher
5 Fearful
6 Donkey comments
7 Young guys
8 Revelation
9 Damaged
10 Apportion
11 Robust condition
12 Daughter of Elizabeth II
13 Western lily
18 Clicked one's tongue
23 Trellis part
25 At any time
26 Out into view
27 Site of the action
28 Kennel Club prize
29 Childhood taboos
31 Astonish
32 Theater awards
34 Black-and-yellow flier
37 Toothpaste container
38 Fruit stones
40 Respected
41 Wash out suds
44 Snitch
46 In unison
47 Very important
48 Kitchen utensils
49 Bassoon's cousin
51 Compaq rival
52 Gibson novel, "__ Lisa Overdrive"
53 Doubtful
54 Corp. bigwigs
57 Edge

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



S	C	A	L	P	E	D	■	A	P	P	L	A	U	D
H	E	R	O	I	N	E	■	B	A	Y	O	N	N	E
I	N	C	O	M	E	S	■	A	L	L	T	I	M	E
N	T	H	■	A	R	T	I	C	L	E	■	L	A	P
G	R	I	D	■	V	I	R	U	S	■	M	I	S	E
L	A	V	E	■	A	N	I	S	■	H	A	N	K	S
E	L	E	V	A	T	E	S	■	P	U	R	E	S	T
■	■	■	I	C	E	S	H	E	E	T	S	■	■	■
M	A	N	S	E	S	■	S	L	A	S	H	E	R	S
A	R	I	E	S	■	S	T	E	S	■	A	X	E	L
D	E	A	D	■	O	M	E	G	A	■	S	A	G	E
C	O	G	■	C	R	E	W	I	N	G	■	M	E	D
A	L	A	M	E	D	A	■	S	T	O	H	I	N	G
P	A	R	A	D	E	R	■	T	R	O	U	N	C	E
S	E	A	T	E	R	S	■	S	Y	D	N	E	Y	S

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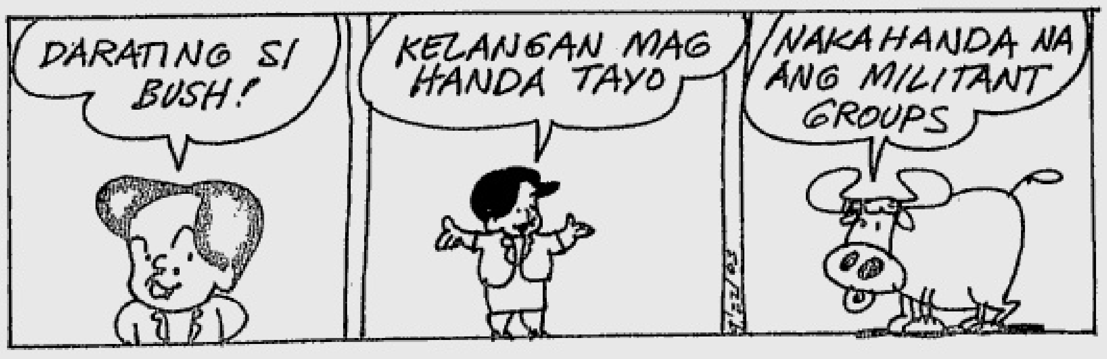
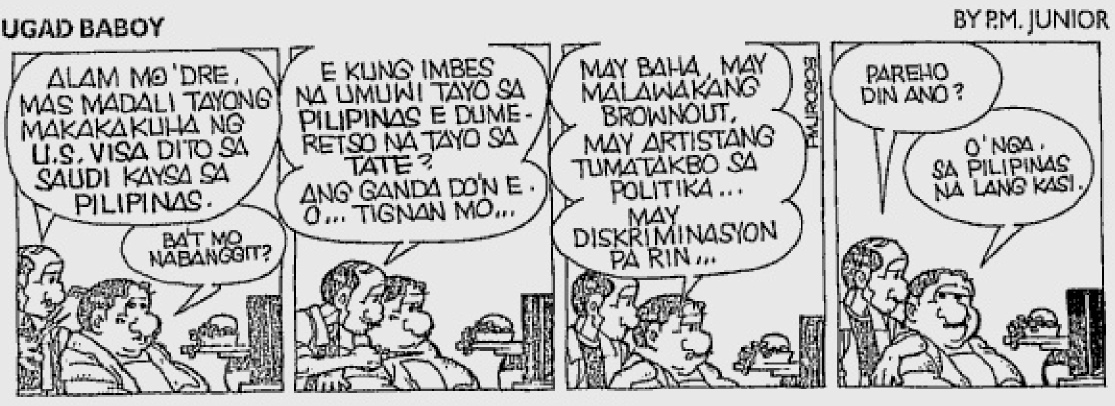
9/22/03

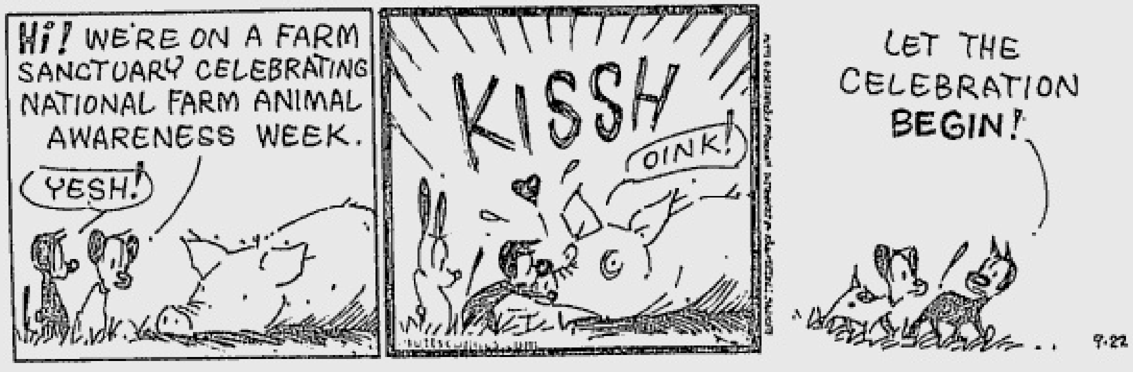
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


DARATING SI BUSH!
KELANGAN MAG HANDA TAYO
NAKAHANDA NA ANG MILITANT GROUPS
9-22-03

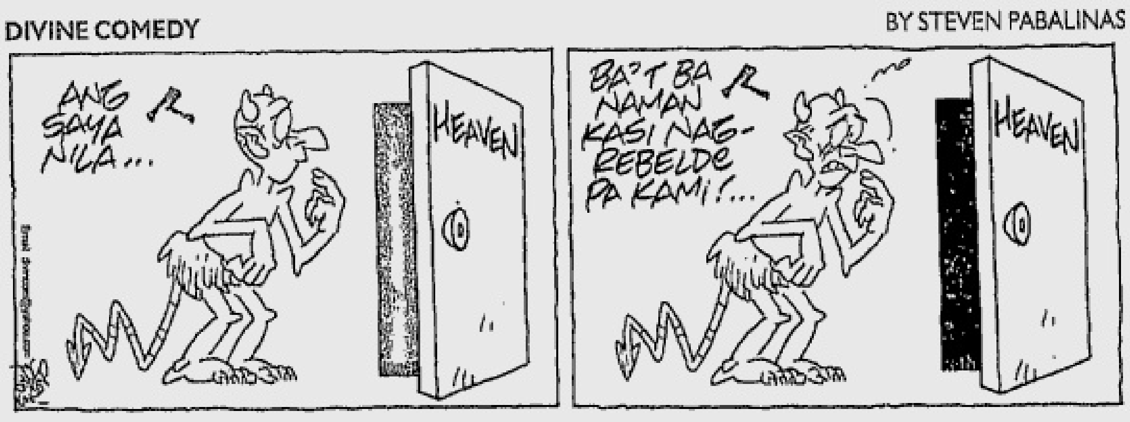
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO 'DRE, MAS MADALI TAYONG MAKAKAKUHA NG U.S. VISA DITO SA SAUDI KAYSA SA PILIPINAS.
BA'T MO NABANGGIT?
E KUNG IMBES NA UMUWI TAYO SA PILIPINAS E DUMERETSO NA TAYO SA TATE?
ANG GANDA DO'N E. O... TIGNAN MO...
MAY BAHA, MAY MALAWAKANG BROWNOUT, MAY ARTISTANG TUMATAKBO SA POLITIKA... MAY DISKRIMINASYON PA RIN...
PAREHO DIN ANO?
O'NGA. SA PILIPINAS NA LANG KASI.
PMJUNIOR

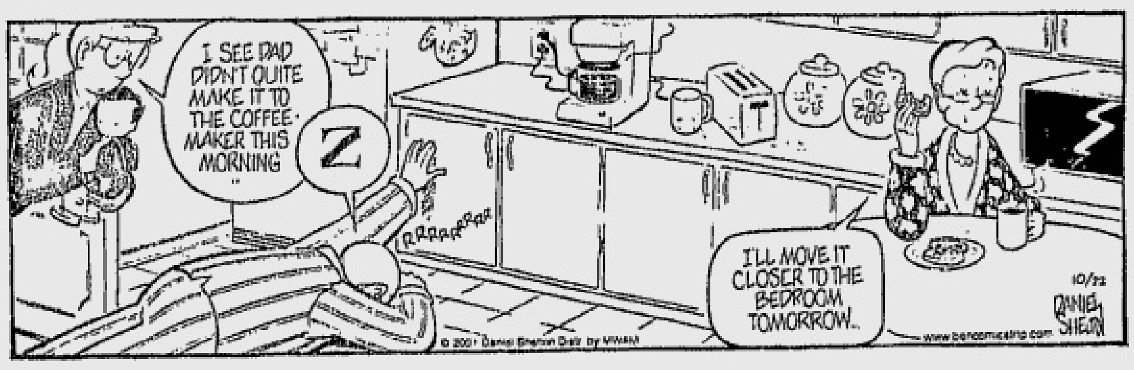
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Hi! WE'RE ON A FARM SANCTUARY CELEBRATING NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL AWARENESS WEEK.
YESH!
KISSH
OINK!
LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!
9-22

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ANG SAYA NILA...
HEAVEN
BA'T BA NAMAN KASI NAG-REBELDE PA KAMI?...
HEAVEN

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I SEE DAD DIDN'T QUITE MAKE IT TO THE COFFEE MAKER THIS MORNING
Z
RRRRRRRR
I'LL MOVE IT CLOSER TO THE BEDROOM TOMORROW.
10/22
DANIEL SHELTON
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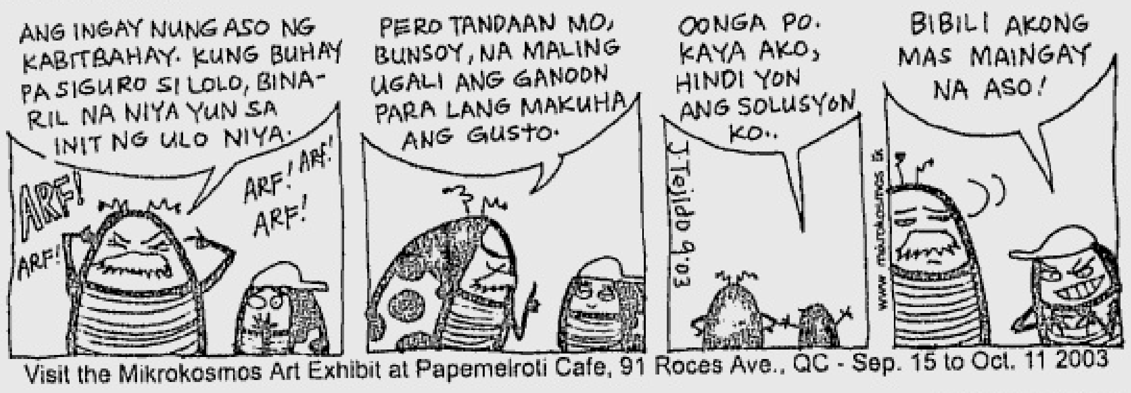
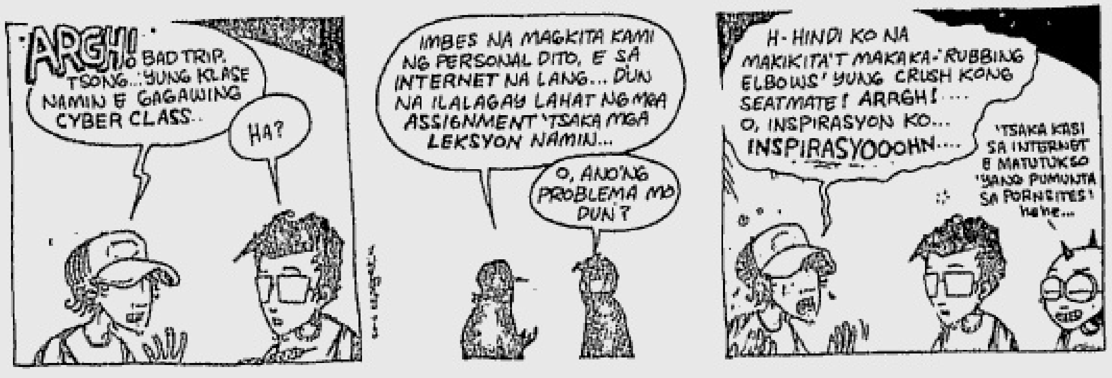
www.bencomicstrip.com

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

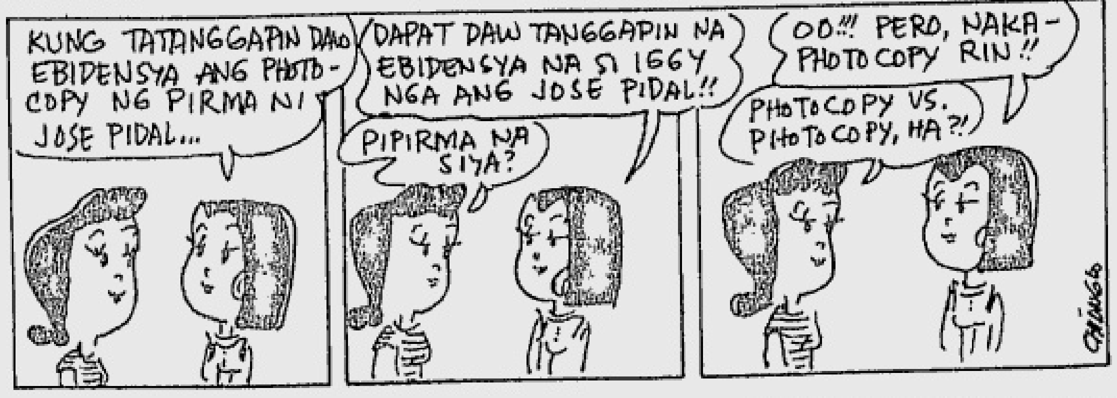

ANG INGAY NUNG ASO NG KABITBAHAY. KUNG BUHAY PA SIGURO SI LOLO, BINARIL NA NIYA YUN SA INIT NG ULO NIYA.
ARF! ARF! ARF! ARF! ARF!
PERO TANDAAN MO, BUNSOY, NA MALING UGALI ANG GANOON PARA LANG MAKUHA ANG GUSTO.
OONGA PO. KAYA AKO, HINDI YON ANG SOLUSYON KO..
J.Tejido 9.03
BIBILI AKONG MAS MAINGAY NA ASO!

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

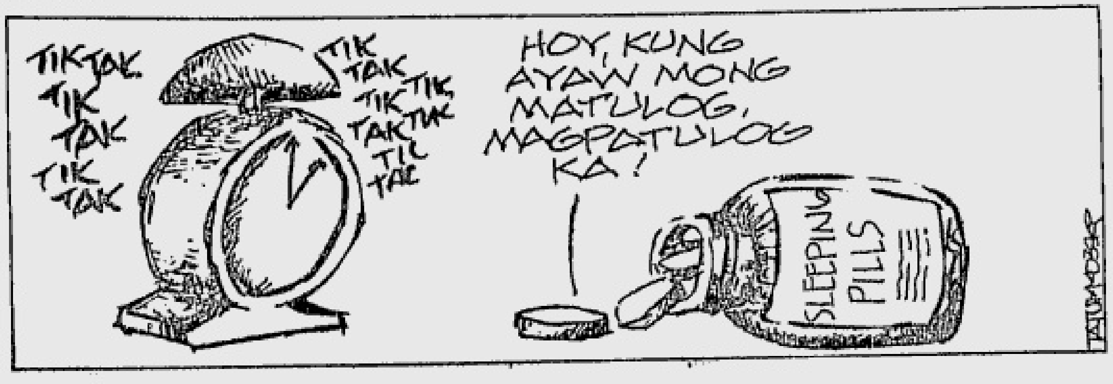
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


ARGH!! BAD TRIP, TSONG... 'YUNG KLASE NAMIN E GAGAWING CYBER CLASS..
HA?
IMBES NA MAGKITA KAMI NG PERSONAL DITO, E SA INTERNET NA LANG... DUN NA ILALAGAY LAHAT NG MGA ASSIGNMENT 'TSAKA MGA LEKSYON NAMIN...
O, ANO'NG PROBLEMA MO DUN?
H-HINDI KO NA MAKIKITA'T MAKAKA-'RUBBING ELBOWS' 'YUNG CRUSH KONG SEATMATE! ARRGH!... O, INSPIRASYON KO... INSPIRASYOOOHN....
'TSAKA KASI SA INTERNET E MATUTUKSO 'YANG PUMUNTA SA PORNSITES! hehe...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG TATANGGAPIN DAW EBIDENSYA ANG PHOTOCOPY NG PIRMA NI JOSE PIDAL...
DAPAT DAW TANGGAPIN NA EBIDENSYA NA SI IGGY NGA ANG JOSE PIDAL!!
PIPIRMA NA SIYA?
OO!!! PERO, NAKA-PHOTOCOPY RIN!!
PHOTOCOPY VS. PHOTOCOPY, HA?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TIK TAK TIK TAK TIK TAK
TIK TAK TIK TAK TIK TAK TIK TAK
HOY, KUNG AYAW MONG MATULOG, MAGPATULOG KA!
SLEEPING PILLS
TATUM

Cards for charity

FOR THE eight straight year, Hallmark Cards, through its local licensee, Filstar Distributors Corp., is holding Hallmark for LIFE (Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment), a fundraising program for children with leukemia. This year's cards are designed by Jovito Andres, Platon Vasquez, Manny Baldemor, former President Corazon Aquino and photographers George Tapan and Lester Ledesma. Companies wishing to join the charity may have their names and logos printed on the cards. Call 6710555.

Lecture on Iluko letters at UST

FOREMOST Iluko writer Jose A. Bragado will speak on "Iluko Literature: History, Currents and Future" at the audio-visual room of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas today at 9 a.m.

Bragado, 67, will deliver the lecture as the first graduate of UST's accreditation and equivalency program in Journalism. UST's Journalism school, the oldest in Southeast Asia, is the only private school in Manila authorized by the Commission on Higher Education to confer equivalency degrees in journalism.

Bragado is the former literary editor of Bannawag magazine. He has published 19 novels and 65 short stories and translated five novels from Filipino to Iluko. He is a former president of Gumil, the national Iluko writers group that has chapters abroad.

The public is invited.

Ateneo releases 'Rama Reader'

THE "VICENTE Rama Reader," edited and translated from the Visayan by Fr. Rudy Villanueva, has just been released by Ateneo de Manila University Press.

Rama (1887-1956), father of the Cebu City charter and well-loved public servant, was also a committed newspaperman. His weekly Bagong Kusog was avidly read in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"The Vicente Rama Reader," a bilingual volume (Cebuano and English), includes a sampling of Rama's fiction, memoirs and essays. Translator Villanueva is a noted fictionist.

'Dalitxt' winners feted in ceremony

WINNERS of the recently concluded Dalitxt contest will be recognized in an awarding ceremony at the Pulungang Claro M. Recto, Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman on Sept. 26.

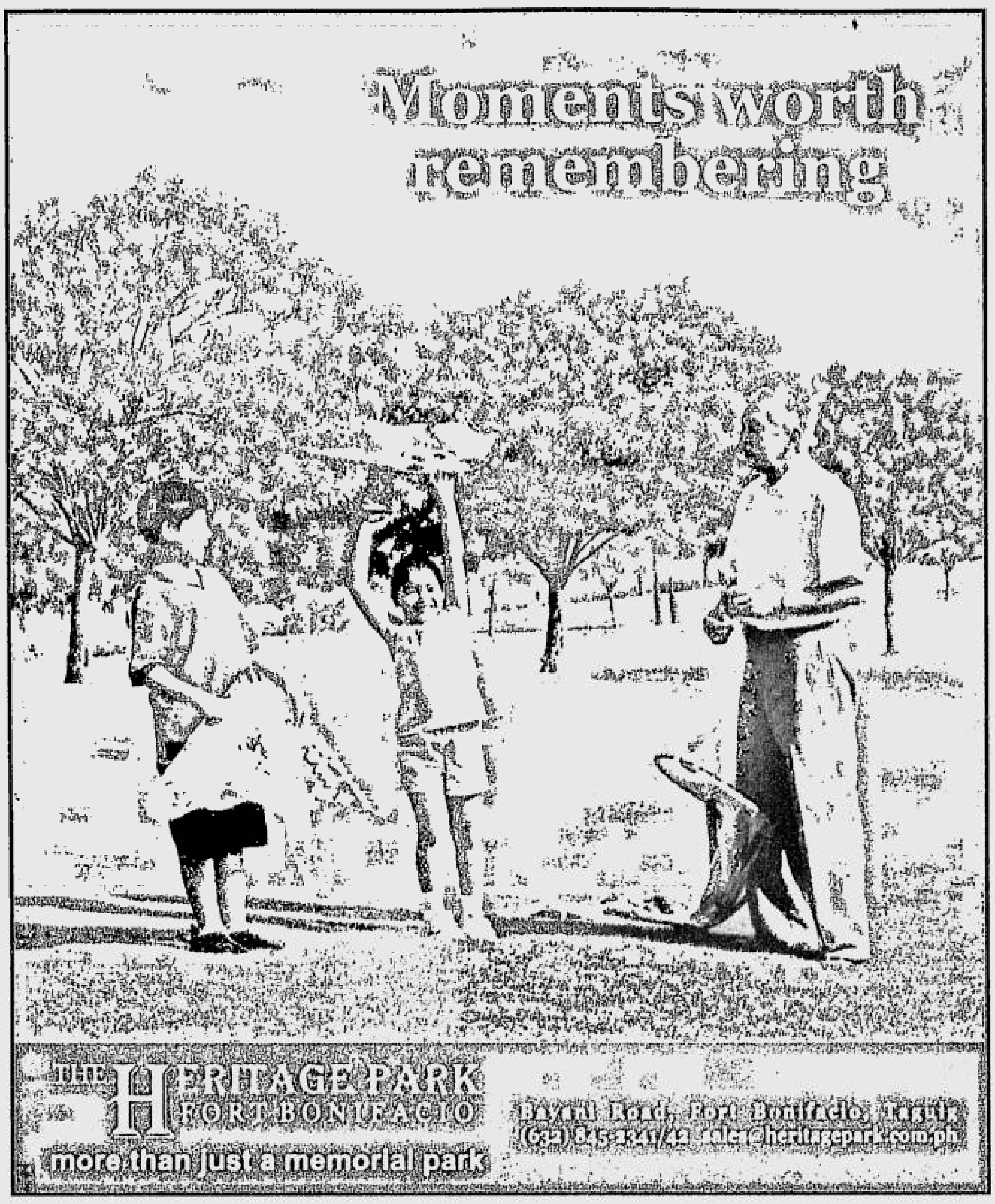
Weekly champions will receive P5,000 while consolation prize winners will receive P2,000. The winning entries will be compiled in a book to be released at the ceremonies.

The contest aimed to popularize and revitalize the tradition of one of the country's oldest forms of poetry using modern technology. The *dalit* is a short poem, composed of four versified rhyming lines. Each line consists only of eight syllables, expressing a complete thought.

During the month-long contest, thousands of entries expressing patriotic messages were sent from all over the country, some even from abroad such as Bahrain, Dubai, and Hongkong.

Dalitxt was organized by the the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in cooperation with the Filipinas Institute of Translation, Inc., Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas, and the U.P. Institute of Creative Writing.

The public is invited.



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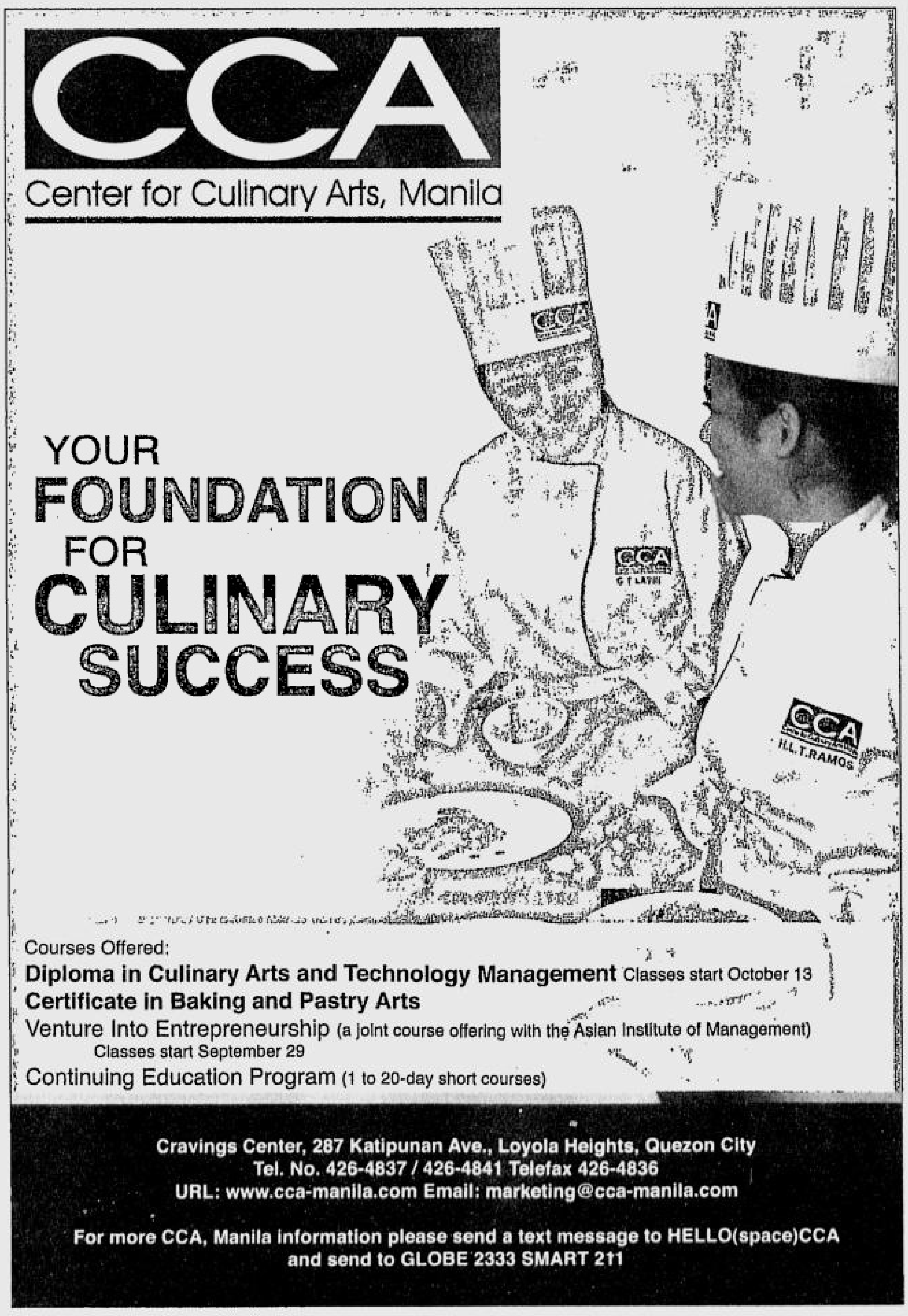
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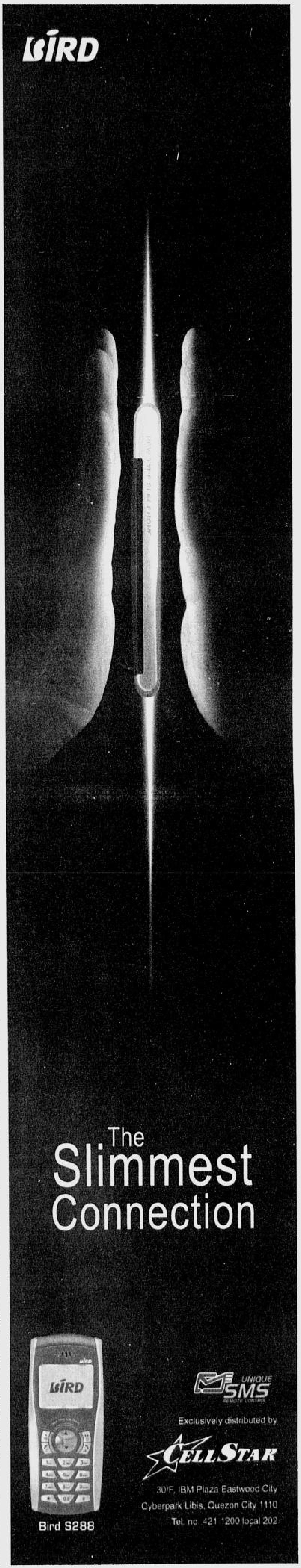
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September reads for book lovers

POWERBOOKS Specialty Store has released a list of suggested readings for book lovers this September.

"Into the Mountain: Hostaged by the Abu Sayyaf" gives a textured account of a tragic event.

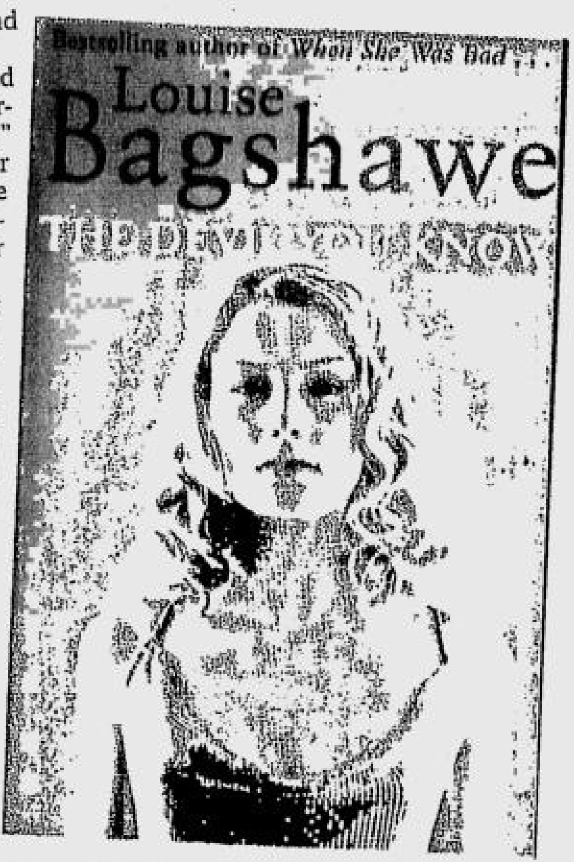
Surgeon Dr. Paul Brand and writer Philip Yancey collaborate in "Fearfully & Wonderfully Made," a remarkable journey through inner space—the world of cells, systems and chemistry.

"Ermita" is the story of an enclave of the privileged and the affluent, and the putrefaction of a society.

The "Diary of a Mother-To-Be" tells the story of a happily married woman who wants to have a baby without derailing her career, losing her sex appeal or disrupting her relationships with family and friends.

In the revised edition of "Personality Plus," Florence Littauer gives valuable insight for appreciating your one-of-a-kind personality. It includes a fun, revealing personality profile test that will tell you how your unique traits affect your emotions, work performance and relationships.

"Jesus The Man" is a controversial version of Christ's life written by a theologian and biblical scholar. He challenges many of Christianity's most ingrained beliefs.



INTO THE MOUNTAIN
Hostaged by the Abu Sayyaf
Jose Torres Jr.

In "The Devil You Know," three women share a secret that unites them in a way they never imagined.

Og Mandino, one of the world's most influential writers, shares one the secrets of personal and financial success in "The Greatest Secret in the World", the sequel to "The Greatest Salesman in the World".

The "Sigma Protocol" is a suspense thriller about a string of deaths in Europe, with the victims having in common an old OSS file, codenamed Sigma.

In "The Firm," a new partner in a law office finds himself in the middle of an investigation by the Federal Bureau Investigation of his firm.

Call PowerBooks customer service hotline at 8444455 or e-mail ibid@powerbooks.com.ph.

NEW SHORT STORY COLLECTION RELEASED
Anvil Publishing and Figaro Coffee Company announce the release of "Fast Food Fiction Short Stories to Go" edited by Noelle Q. de Jesus. The book is a compilation of works by several fictionists including Jessica Zafra, Tina Cuyugan, Lakambini Sitoy, Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, Jose Dalisay Jr., Cyan Abad, Cathy Babao-Guballa, Ramon C. Sunico, Andrea Paison-Flores, Libay Cantor, Jaime An Lim, Gregorio Brillantes, Eileen Tabios and Carla Pacis. It is now available at all National Bookstore and Powerbooks branches. Call Anvil Publishing at 6719235/6711899. In photo are: Scott Garceau, Therese Jamora-Garceau, Bernice C. Roldan, Noelle Q. de Jesus, Rayvi Sunico, Libay Linsangan Cantor, Carla Pacis, Tina Cuyugan, Butch Dalisay, Greg Brillantes, Karla Delgado and Rofel Brion

A young novelist's Midas touch

From page F1

cienda proportions, and so we get vivid, if brief, stories of Jarabases and Torrecarions sprouting either directly or tangentially from the family tree. On the Jarabas side is Margie's mother, once a laborer's daughter, now clinging tenaciously to life. Margie's sister Sally settles in Manila with a partner named Sandra, who is a dancer of "the show-bunny" type. On the Torrecarrion side is Dolores, the magnificent grand matriarch whose iron will is traced back to her loveless marriage with Faustino, the grand patriarch from whom the Torrecarrion fortune and misfortune spring.

More havoc

People at the fringes who contribute to the havoc wrought by the Torrecarion family on themselves are hacienda neighbors and an hacienda worker named Rodel. The neighbors are a German couple named Müller, who have a mongoloid son. His innocently destructive tendencies figure significantly in the novel's numerous plot twists and turns. He, too, vanishes at his chapter's end. The most intriguing of these vanishing acts is that of Rodel, an hacienda worker after whom Margie's son Rodel is named. Being a high school graduate, the elder Rodel is a cut above the other workers and becomes Don Carlos' protegé. He loses favor with the Don when he plants the seeds of rebellion, but wins that of Margie with the same insolent charm. When he and Margie elope to Aklan, they are forcibly taken back to Bacolod and he is never seen again. Margie meets George soon after, they marry, and they have a premature baby that Margie insists must be named Rodel Carlos.

Then there's a parade of characters illustrating the cross-section of Negrense society: bored haciendero wives, deferential and diffident workers, Margie's half-brother who is the fruit of an illicit union between her father and a lavandera, the loquacious family driver and so on.

Eliciting one of the most hilarious moments in the novel is the chapter set in the retreat house run by the pragmatically charming Fr. Tony. How Margie attempts a grand escape by crawling away in the dark during the "sharing" session is the quintessence of camp mayhem. Equally hilarious are the parodies of Bacolod's version of People Power, Filipino "pene" films, the Holy Week rituals, romance in an Amorsolo-like setting, and so on ad absurdum.

Hovering ubiquitously around the characters is the collective voice of Negrense society, which blends indistinctly with the narrative voice. We are bombarded with deliberately hedging expressions that constantly put the author's own realistic statements in doubt: "all of Bacolod agreed that," "many such stories circulated," "Bacolod's rumor mills." Hence, when the novel meanders into the historical, the question of accuracy and factuality should no longer count (except perhaps for Negrense history buffs like me).

"Sky Over Dimas" includes an elaborate back story in the form of a memoir-within-a-memoir. It is written by George summarizing his grandfather Faustino's own memoir and alternating in italicized chunks with the contemporary accounts. The raw material that Faustino's self-mythification consists of is riveting, and is obviously the product of some (but perhaps not enough?) research. But this mythified history is a virtual novel in itself and, recounted as it is in fragments, creates shifts in style and scene which are jagged.

The memoir-within-a-memoir device points to Groyon's proclivity toward the breezy, realistic style and not that of the mythmaker nor the historical fictionist.

High-wire act

But this novel is an ambitious, high-wire act. We are willing to overlook the fact that George-the-memoir-writer and Groyon-the-author express the same level and texture of insight, because the comedy-often knockabout, sometimes sly, always engaging-remains undiluted.

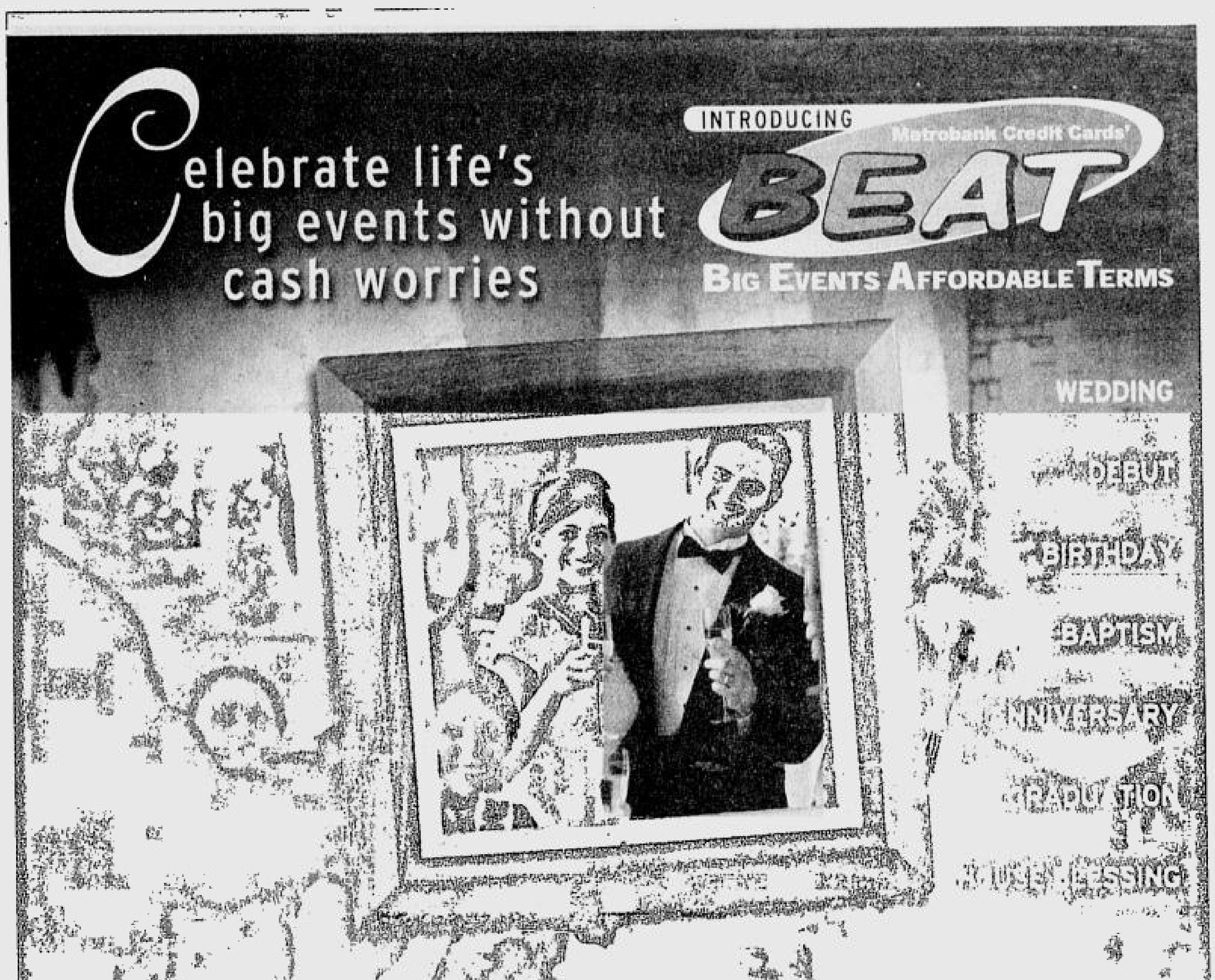
While the humor is always irreverent, it is never forced nor distasteful. The novel is written in consistently flawless and elegant prose that confirms the credo that fiction is twin sister to poetry.

In less competent hands, time merely passes or stands still. But in Groyon's, it takes on a nuanced face: "Each month that passed was pocked with numerous blank spaces that would come to torment him..."

And for a characterization of the hacienda worker, here is a synecdoche: "The feet would invariably be broad, solid, like the roots of an ancient tree, creased and cracked, chalky ridges limning the whorls and calluses, skin the texture of guava tree bark. They made respectful padding noises as they approached..."

There are several such outstanding descriptions, such as those of Faustino's walking cane, the Jarabas mansion, or even just a chandelier. It is this meticulous exterior eye, plus the author's astute understanding of the human (hence, Negrense) psyche, that leads one to suspect that Groyon may have mined his own life—young but decidedly rich in material—for this prodigiously detailed novel.

"The Sky Over Dimas" ranks among the best novels in English I've come across in years. And if you want to know how it ends, suffice it to say that beneath the author's lyrical prose and the sheen of premature wisdom beats a heart of pure pulp.



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TOURISM: A driving force for poverty alleviation, job creation and social harmony

Shaking the islands through tourism with 'character'

By Raqel Gomez

TOURISM in the country has been lately getting the push and the jolt it needs, thanks to the efforts of "Mr. Action Guy" Richard Gordon, who's currently at the helm of the department in charge of selling the image of the country abroad.

The outspoken and very visible Gordon had been credited for transforming Subic in Olongapo into a prosperous economic zone long after the US bases folded up and shipped out of the place.

According to Gordon, his new job at the tourism department is challenging and it is his goal to transform the rather semi-dormant tourism industry of the Philippines into a money making machinery that would create jobs and opportunities by the thousands. Many, in fact, see the sector as a major source of dollars for the country, like what other countries have been doing.

"Our projects here are sustainable, they create jobs. Our vision is not only centered on making the Philippines as the preferred destination in the Asian region, but more importantly, to create job opportunities and revenues that will uplift the lives of our people, foster a sense of national pride and achievement and preserve our national patrimony and heritage," Gordon said, adding that

TOURISM/G2

> 'Our vision is to create jobs that will uplift the lives of our people'

TOURISM Secretary Gordon with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the foot of the waterfalls in Villa Escudero.

MESSAGES

GREETINGS to all the visitors, tourism stakeholders, particularly national tourism administrators and the private tourism sector on the occasions of National Tourism Week (NTW) celebration on September 22-28, 2003 and the World Tourism Day on September 27, 2003.

The celebration of this year's NTW and the World Tourism Day 2003 focuses on the theme: "Tourism: A Driving Force for Poverty Alleviation, Job Creation and Social Harmony." It highlights tourism's fundamental role as a positive instrument towards reducing poverty, creating job opportunities and fostering social harmony. It is in this light that the NTW aims to develop awareness among the general public on the important contribution of the tourism industry to the national economy and to underscore the significance of the government and private sector partnership in the development and promotion of tourism.

Under my administration, travel and tourism have been identified as a major engine for socio-economic development. Government, in collaboration with the private sector, is putting more energy and resources to entice more visitors to the Philippines.

May this celebration inspire tourism industry players to strengthen their activities towards national tourism growth.

Best wishes and Mabuhay!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

IT IS with great pride that I extend my warmest greetings to visitors and tourism industry stakeholders on the occasions of the National Tourism Week (NTW) celebration on September 22 to 28, 2003 and World Tourism Day on September 27, 2003.

The theme "Tourism: A Driving Force for Poverty Alleviation, Job Creation and Social Harmony" has been adopted for World Tourism Day 2003 pursuant to the agreements made during the 14th World Tourism Organization (WTO) General Assembly in 2001.

Under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, travel and tourism has been identified as a major engine for socio-economic development. The government, in collaboration with the private sector, is putting more energy and resources to entice more visitors to the Philippines.

For its part, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has initiated programs and projects, which all led up to Visit Philippines year, a DOT campaign fully endorsed by the World Tourism Organization (WTO)-the biggest policy-making body for global travel and tourism. This campaign integrates all tourism marketing communication resources to increase visitor arrivals to our country. It seeks to build a strong partnership with multi-sectoral entities, local travel trade and the mass media to mount well-planned and sustained marketing programs.

This year, the whole world's attention is focused on the best which our country has to offer as a unique and multi-faceted business and travel destination. With Visit Philippines year in full swing, we invite people from all over the world to come and visit our country where they can explore the wealth of wonders of the Philippines' more than 7,100 islands and experience the Filipino way of celebrating our rich cultural heritage and festive spirit.

Mabuhay!

Richard J. Gordon
Secretary of Tourism

AS chairman of the Senate Committee on Tourism, I am deeply honored to extend my warmest greetings and salutations to the organizers and participants of the activities for the National Tourism Week from September 22-28, 2003 and the World Tourism Day, on September 27, 2003.

It is noteworthy that this year's theme: "Tourism: A Driving Force for Poverty Alleviation, Job Creation and Social Harmony" highlights the growing significance of the tourism industry as a potential solution to many social and economic ills of our country. It is also important to note that the private sector, concerned government agencies, local government units and regional tourism councils, in support to the WTO World Tourism Day 2003, have cooperated to come up with worthwhile tourism-related programs and projects in their respective areas.

The united effort of tourism stakeholders and their noble endeavors are manifestations of the strengthened role of tourism industry in the enhancement of the socioeconomic development in our country. This is in line with the underprivileged citizens job and business opportunities through sustainable tourism development.

My best wishes for the success of the National Tourism Week. Rest assured that your Kabayan is one with you in your efforts to improve the country's tourism industry.

Mabuhay ang industriya ng turismo! Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Noli "Kabayan" de Castro
Senator

AS CHAIRMAN of the House of Representatives' Committee on Tourism, I am honored to extend my warmest salutations to the organizers and tourism industry stakeholders on the occasions of the National Tourism Week (NTW) from September 22-28, 2003 and World Tourism Day on September 27, 2003.

This year's theme: "Tourism: A Driving Force for Poverty Alleviation, Job Creation and Social Harmony" highlights the significant role of tourism as an engine for socioeconomic development in our country. It underscores tourism as a positive and fundamental instrument in reducing poverty in our country, generating job opportunities and fostering social harmony.

The concerted efforts of the government agencies, local government units, regional tourism councils and the tourism private sector is a manifestation of the important and strengthened role of the tourism industry in the development and promotion of tourism in the country.

May the celebration of the National Tourism Week and World Tourism Day foster unity amongst all stakeholders in the tourism industry.

Mabuhay!

Krisel Lagman-Luistro (*Sgd*).
Representative

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BAYAN KO, SAGOT KO!

Tourism means jobs

From page G1

he was thankful that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo identified travel and tourism as an engine for socioeconomic development, paving the way for tourism-related projects to be prioritized by the government.

Just two and half years in office, Gordon has been actively promoting the country in tourism fairs abroad as well as realigning the marketing and promotions of tourist destinations in the country. It's no longer the "you-visit-and-do-sightseeing" campaign but rather the creation of niche marketing to attract different market segments and match their needs by offering them a wide array of tour packages and enhancements to create a "more than the usual" experience for discerning tourists. "Our message is clear—the Philippines is a safe destination. It is a country where you can find tours, special interest and adventure activities as pleasant as it can get, as extreme and challenging as you care to attempt, or as relaxed and enjoyable as you would like it to be," Gordon said.

A tour of Manila and its historical sites, for example, would also entail a tour of Corregidor Island or Cavite province through tour ships plying Manila Bay.

The revival of Intramuros as a lovely place with much of the appeal of its old charms intact is one major project of the tourism department under Gordon. Short of budget for the project, Gordon encouraged volunteers in the business sector to help in the cleaning and lighting the area. Eyesores such as dumping areas have been removed and the plazas inside have been beautified and greened, and where eventually chic restaurants have been opening up. According to the tourism chief, a light-and-sound show will soon be opened in October that would "showcase our Filipino heritage and break the walls" that the Spanish colonizers built in our minds. One such show has already been inaugurated in Imus, Cavite, depicting the victories of the Philippine Revolution, in which Gordon's grandfather Col. Jose Tagle figured in a pivotal role.

Under the streetlights, the walled city has been romanticized and there's music and mood and people gather to enjoy the sights and sounds of the many attractions showcasing Filipino history and culture. And this should be tourism-chic, charm, and history combined—in the eyes of Gordon.

"Tourism without character is nothing. You should have a story behind tourism," said Gordon of the department's thrust in unearthing histories behind the tourist destinations.

"I want the character of the people to show that we are a nation that is friendly, that we are proud of our heritage and that tourists visiting us can have a spectacular time here!"

"Everybody thought I was crazy and nobody would ever go there," said Gordon when he started work in Intramuros. "But look at Intramuros now. It's luring in people and it's a success. We have already generated millions of pesos in revenues for people willing to cast their support for tourism. And that includes 4,000 people now having jobs because of the project."

Another project expected to boost tourism in the Northern provinces is the transformation of the former Paskuhan Village in San Fernando Pampanga that will now serve as a preview of all the offerings of the provinces and areas in the North. Dubbed "Hilaga", the new attraction will house exhibit areas that will showcase the products, produce and even history of the Ilocos, Ifugao, Cagayan, Cordillera and the Central Luzon Regions.

Not only will "Hilaga" serve as a "preview" center but it is in itself a destination where you can buy the bargains, the products and the produce of the provinces.

To make the country more visible to its target markets abroad and here at home, Gordon has embarked on a marketing blitz that has generated numerous international awards for the country—a not-so-easy feat. Currently, the country enjoys airtime spots in CNN and BBC, with witty and well-crafted advertisements showing the islands and the character of the people. It's what Gordon termed the "WOW Philippines!" campaign, which speaks of the country as offering "more than the usual" to tourists. To revitalize the country's domestic tourism, "WOW Philippines" posters are now seen in major thoroughfares all over Metro Manila and its environs.

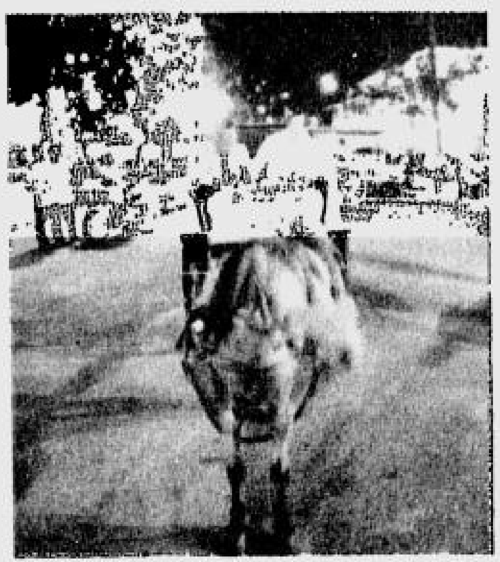
The tourism department will also launch the enhanced tourism volunteer campaign, wherein Filipinos here and abroad are encouraged to bring one tourist in the country with the goal of generating 2.3 million visitor arrivals by the end of the year.

"There are 7.6 million Filipinos abroad and 67 million here," said Gordon. "If each one would just bring home a visitor, that will be something." Gordon said that a single tourist would be spending about an average of $1,000 and 90 percent of the amount stays in the country.

Last year, with all the projects of Gordon having been put in place and started, tourism in the country made a surprising rebound of 7.6 percent or 1.9 million tourist arrivals despite a meager department budget, less flights by the airlines, the threat of global terrorism, as well as internal threats. Philippine tourism arrival statistics, Gordon noted, grew faster than that of the world, and has kept pace with Asia-Pacific tourism, according to studies made by the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the highest policy-making body of the global tourism industry. With the success of "Visit Philippines 2003" and the projects initiated by Gordon for Philippine tourism, the WTO extended its worldwide endorsement and promotion of "Visit Philippines Year" until June 2004.

Gordon, promoting the majesty and grandeur of the country's tourist destinations, necessitates a change in attitude among Filipinos. "I have always emphasized that what our country needs is not a change of men but a 'change in men'. Our country will only move forward only if we take up the cudgels ourselves and together, push it in the same direction. Nobody will care for our country but ourselves."

WHITEWATER rafting with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in Cagayan de Oro



CALESA and 'caruaje' operators service the multitude of tourists who visit History Town Intramuros

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TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon announced that HILAGA, a new theme park in what used to be Paskuhan Village, San Fernando, Pampanga, will showcase the best of North Philippines and be the wellspring of social and economic opportunities for small entrepreneurs in rural areas, marginal farmers and backyard merchants from far-flung communities.

The Village was put up with the combined efforts of all tourism regional directors, local government units, local tourism councils and industry stakeholders of northern Philippines.

Each region is expected to showcase their own brand of tourism-related activities.

Among the festivals to be presented during the opening include the Pista'y Dayat and Bangus Festival of Pangasinan, Pavvurulun and Bambanti Festival of Cagayan Valley, Panagbenga and Gotad Ad Ifugao of Cordillera. Central Luzon will present its famous Sinukwan, Tanduyong, Malatar lak, Ilongot and Suman Festival.

A gallery of regional exhibits representing dramatic milestones in history such as the historic turnover of Subic and Clark to the Philippine government immediately following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991 will take center stage.

Entrance to the village is Free.

NOW OPEN
HILAGA
Northern Philippines
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Cagayan Valley
Central Luzon
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)
San Fernando Pampanga

WOW PHILIPPINES

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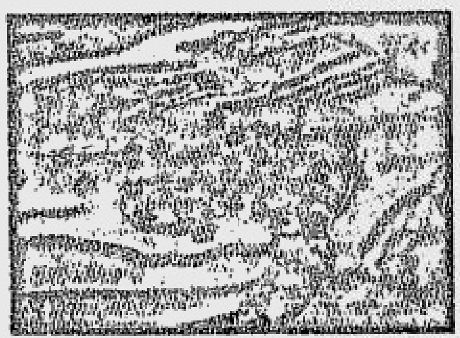
Dick Gordon
Secretary- Department of Tourism
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President- Republic of the Philippines

DISCOVER
Our Islands.

Tagaytay Picnic Grove
East End, Tagaytay City

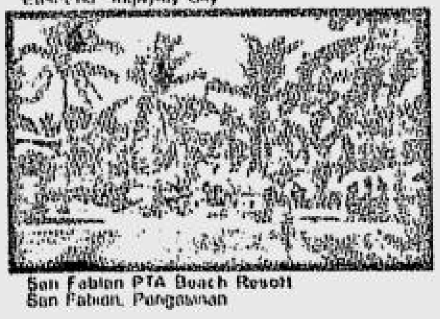
Balicasag Island Dive Resort
Panglao, Bohol

Gardens of Malasag Eco-Tourism Village
Cagayan de Oro

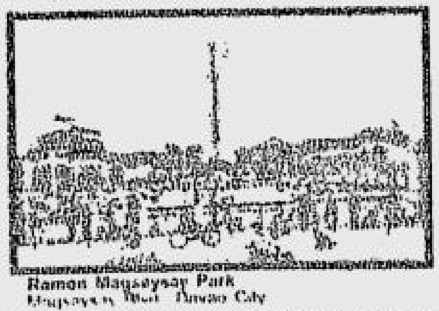


Banaue Hotel & Youth Hostel
Banaue, Ifugao

Mt. Data Hotel
Bauko, Mt. Province



San Fabian PTA Beach Resort
San Fabian, Pangasinan



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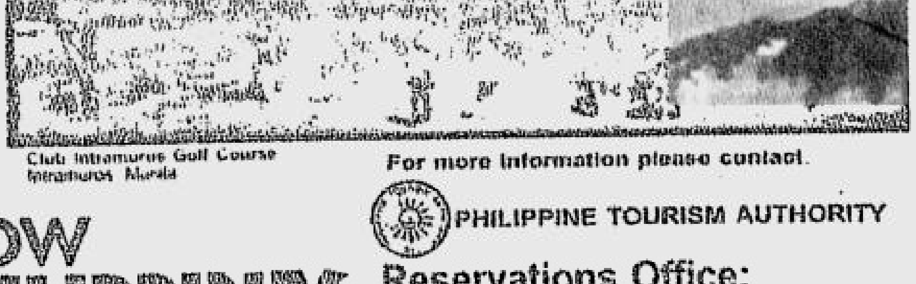
Hundred Islands National Park
Alaminos, Pangasinan

MacArthur Park Beach R
Palo, Leyte

Paskuhan Village
San Fernando, Pampanga



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(632)5247141 Loc. 308/309/314
Fax No.: (632)5256490
website: http://www.philtourism.com
email: sales@philtourism.com

Domestic package tours available at the 14th PTM

THE 14TH Philippine Travel Mart (PTM)—the largest travel and tourism showcase in the country, slated Sept 26 to 28 at Clamshell 2, Intramuros, will feature the best domestic package tours at very affordable prices. The event is being spearheaded by the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa) and the Department of Tourism (DOT) and is supported by major tourism private organizations, local government units and tourism councils and associations.

Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon said that the biggest sale of vacation deals was the result of his appeal to the tourism stakeholders, specifically the tour operators, to boost domestic tourism during the recently concluded Tourism Related Industries Congress (Tricon). "Our partnership with the private sector is vital to the successful revitalization of our country's domestic tourism", he stressed, adding that, "domestic tourism is just as important as international tourism".

In response to this appeal, Philtoa president Raquel Boncan revealed that visitors to the Travel Mart can look forward to unbelievable travel bargains, as much as 40-percent discount on transportation, board, and lodging costs. These bargains are available only during travel and tourism exhibition. "So the public is advised not to let the opportunity pass. After the PTM, they will have to pay standard rates for their vacation trips and treats", Boncan said.

According to Boncan, various vacation niches will be promoted during the event. These include Fiesta Islands, Wellness and Spa, Eco-Adventures/Sports, Golf, Dive, Best Beaches, Arts and Cultural Heritage, Senior Citizens/Retirees, Youth, Shopping and Entertainment.

The travel extravaganza also coincides with the celebration of the National Tourism Week from Sept 22 to 28, and the global recognition of World Tourism Day on Sept. 27, with the more than one hundred member-countries of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) unanimously adopting the theme: "Tourism: A Driving Force for Poverty Alleviation, Job Creation and Social Harmony".

Along this theme, the tourism chief said that the country's tourism industry has been one of the major contributors to the country's national economy, generating billions of dollars and creating job opportunities for thousands of Filipinos.

"Our vision in DOT is not only centered in making the Philippines the premier tourist destination in the Asian region, but more importantly, to create jobs and generate revenues that will uplift the quality of life of our people, foster a sense of national pride and accomplishment, and preserve the country's rich and diverse cultural heritage that would lead to social harmony and understanding in the long run", Gordon enthused.

US AMBASSADOR Francis Ricciardone and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon scuba diving in Subic Bay

'We are not here just for the interest of bringing back the tourist numbers, but we are also here for our general concern for the empty bowls of our people'

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon on top of a float during the street parade at the "Tuna Festival" in General Santos

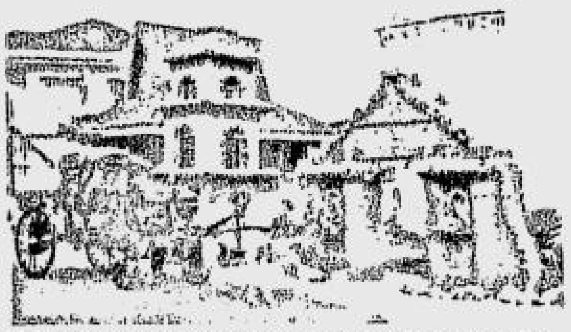
WOW Intramuros

FROM a near forgotten relic of our country's rich historical and cultural past, to a pulsating center of activities, Intramuros is not only Manila's prime tourist destination, but also the convergence point for our diverse culture and heritage. It has also generated jobs and livelihood opportunities for thousands of Filipinos in its many dining, entertainment and recreation facilities.

CORDILLERA tribe

PAPUNG ILO
Intramuros, Manila Philippines

SUCCESSFUL food vendor



ILOCOS Norte Bell Tower constructed out of mud; antique carriage

STREET party at Intramuros by night

REGIONAL fiesta performers

SPAIN'S Queen Sofia visits Intramuros

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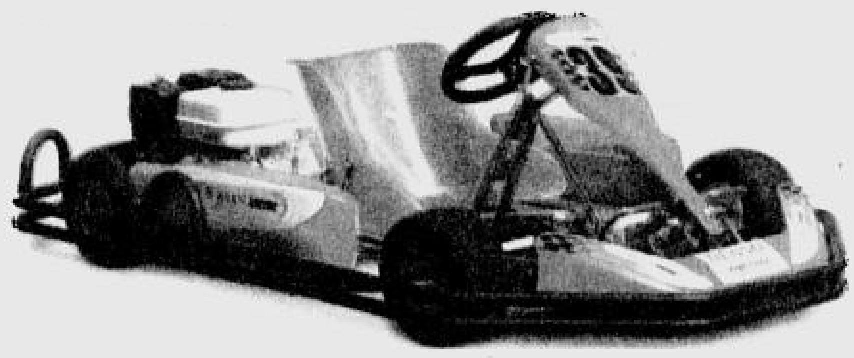
WATCH OUT FOR THE LAUNCHING OF VOLUNTEER 12-GET 1 FOR YOUR COUNTRY!

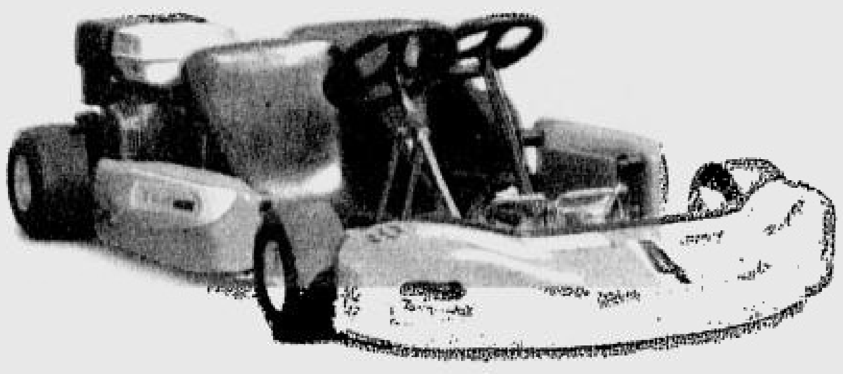
WIN P200 MILLION IN CASH PRIZES!

Calling all Filipinos, both here and abroad, and all tour operators! Invite at least one between now and December 31, 2003 tourist and be eligible for cash prizes. And with visitors credited to provinces of destination, even local government units qualify for prizes. Reach quotas and a national tourist arrival high of 2.6 million, and top producers become instant winners!

Enchanted Kingdom



For father's laps.



No need for father's lap.

Speed through laps without a kid on your lap. Race together with our Dual-Steering Racing Karts, so you can experience the thrill of racing together. 30kph of pure adrenaline rush. It's the closest thing you'll get to formula racing. Who knows, you can get your family addicted to speed.

BE A RACE DRIVER FOR THE DAY AT KART-TRAK

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Open houses, regional festivities mark National Tourism Week celebration

FROM Sept. 22 to 28, practically the whole nation will get a glimpse of the Philippines' best historical and cultural treasures, the grandest festivals and special activities as the country celebrates the National Tourism Week (NTW) and joins the whole world in commemorating World Tourism Day.

Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon announced that a total of 21 museums and parks in Metro Manila would be open to the public for free or at specially discounted rates, while an estimated 60 regional festivities and special interest activities under the Department of Tourism's "Fiestas for Progress" Program are slated all over the country during the tourism week, which are aimed to highlight the gains, triumphs and resilience of Philippine tourism.

"This nationwide celebration is meant to showcase the victories of Philippine tourism despite the trials and circumstances that we have faced the past year. This weeklong celebration is a manifestation that tourism is one of the industries that can generate national pride and achievement for this country," Gordon enthused.

The museums and parks offering free entrances and discounted rates during the weeklong celebration include Bahay Tsinoy, Casa Manila, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Flora Farm, Fort Santiago Park, Geronimo Berenguer delos Reyes Museum, Jorge Vargas Museum & Filipiniana Research Center, Juan Nakpil Bautista House, Lopez Memorial Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Museo ng Kalinangang Pilipino, Museo Pambata ng Maynila, National Museum, DOT Children's Playground, Japanese and Chinese Garden, Kanlungan ng Sining, Dr. Jose Rizal's Diorama, Paco Park, Philippine Science Centrum and the University of Sto. Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences.

The tourism chief added that the under the Fiestas for Progress Program, festivals are already scheduled across the country, which include the Western Visayas - "Pasundayag Ilonggo" and the Philippine Travel Mart both in Intramuros, Baguio Tossed Salad Festival— Round Threel, grand opening of the North Philippines Historical, Cultural and Tourism Village, Banigan-Kawayan Festival in Samar, 8th Siargao International Surfing Cup in Surigao del Norte, , Dumalondong Festival in Agusan del Sur, and the Megayon Festival in Zamboanga del Sur, to name a few. Street parties, historical and cultural exchange programs and tours, motorcades, marching bands, tourism forums, open houses and pho-to exhibits have likewise been scheduled in the different regions in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon rides a horse as he marshals the street parade during the 'Rodeo Masbateño' in Masbate with Governor Antonio Kho of Masbate.

The NTW celebration coincides with the global recognition of World Tourism Day on Sept. 27, with the more than one hundred member-countries of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) unanimously adopting the theme: "Tourism: A Driving Force for Poverty Alleviation, Job Creation and Social Harmony".

For a complete listing of the open houses and regional activities, interested parties may call the DOT-Special Events Division at 525-4683 or the DOT Hotline at 525-2000. The public may also visit the DOT website - www.wowphilippines.com.ph and click on the "National Tourism Week" icon to view the special offerings and schedule of activities slated during the weeklong celebration.

> This nationwide celebration is meant to showcase the victories of Philippine tourism despite the trials and circumstances that we have faced the past year

DID YOU KNOW.

That last year, Philippine tourism arrivals grew at a rate faster than that of the world? There were 715 million tourism arrivals worldwide, posting a growth rate of +3.1 percent. With 1.99 million tourists the Philippines grew at a rate of +7.6 percent over 2001

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS GARNERED BY THE PHILIPPINES SINCE 2001:

2001

- **Best Booth in Asia - Internationale Tourismus Borse (ITB), Berlin, Germany**

2002

- **Best Conservation Effort Award: Mt. Pinatubo Trek - 'Kabuhayan sa Turismo'- Association of Southeast Asian Nations Tourism Association (ASEANTA), Jakarta, Indonesia**
- **Overall Best Marketing Effort Award - Internationale Tourismus Borse (ITB), Berlin, Germany**

2003

- **Best Dive Center in the Southeast Asia - BOOT Fair, Düsseldorf, Germany**
- **Best International Video Advertising: 'More Than the Usual - WOW Philippines' - Internationale Tourismus Borse, Berlin (ITB), Germany**

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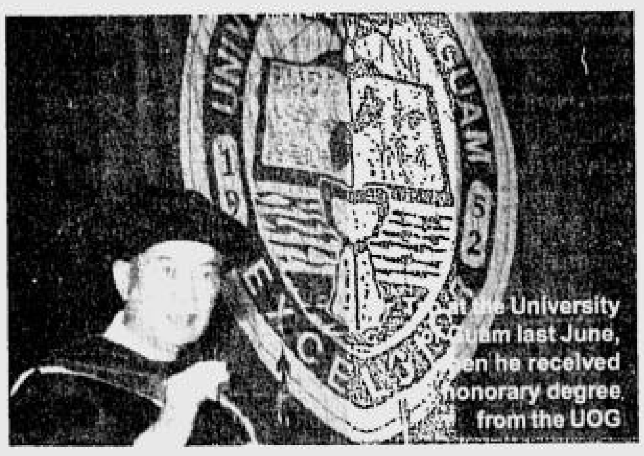
The new BALIKBAYAN LAW extends Balikbayans and OFWs shopping period within 15 days upon arrival.

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES FIESTAMALL IS OPEN DAILY FROM 9 AM TO 9 PM

UE Turns 57!

The UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST
Celebrates Its
57th Foundation Anniversary
> > September 22 - 27, 2003


at the University of Guam last June, en he received honorary degree from the UOG

Dr. Lucio C. Tan, the Generous UE Benefactor

Industrialist, nationalist and philanthropist Dr. Lucio Chua Tan is known for many things, primarily as the Chairman of the Lucio C. Tan Group of Companies, as well as of Philippine Airlines (PAL) and Philippine National Bank (PNB).

But to the UE community, Dr. Tan is acknowledged as its generous benefactor, having come to UE's rescue during its most serious crisis in the 1990s. Dr. Tan invested whatever resources and efforts were required to turn UE around to sound management, financial stability and academic excellence, and encouraged its vigorous entry into the age of information technology.

Dr. Tan continues to support UE through the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. (TYKFI), which Dr. Tan established in 1986 in honor of his late father Tan Yan Kee. The Foundation, among other philanthropic endeavors, has been providing financial support for scholarship grants for students of UE and certain other schools.

For his generosity towards UE, Dr. Tan was given a special tribute on September 27, 2001, at the Century Park Hotel, during the celebration of UE's 55th Foundation Day.

Dr. Tan's investments in education are far-reaching, having stressed time and again that "the hope of my generation lies in educating the youth."

For over 20 years, Dr. Tan has been a major donor and prime mover of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc.'s "Operation Barrio School Project," contributing over P150 million to construct almost 460 schoolhouses for most of the 2,100 school buildings covered by the project. In the early 1980s, he provided P1 million seed money to set up the Philippine counterpart of the international book donation program "Books Across the Sea." In 1984, he established the Asia Brewery Medical Specialty Scholarships Foundation, which sends graduates of local medical schools to the US, UK, etc. for further studies.

He is the Founder and Concurrent Vice Chairman and Principal Benefactor of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE), a non-profit organization that serves as the government's partner in upgrading the quality of education in the Philippines by improving the teaching skills of English, Science and Mathematics teachers.

Dr. Tan has earned prestigious awards, including the UST Medal of Excellence in 1999 and the Outstanding Manilan for 2000 Award by the Manila City Government.

In November 2000, he was given the degree of Doctor of Applied Agriculture, *Honoris Causa*, by the Central Luzon State University in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. Last June 1, he was conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa*, by the University of Guam for his contributions to higher education, generosity towards charitable causes and unending quest for excellence and knowledge.

UE to Confer Honorary Degree on SC Senior Associate Justice

Bellosillo

UE will confer the degree of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*, upon the Hon. Josue N. Bellosillo, Senior Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, on September 25, 4 p.m., at the Conference Hall in UE Manila.

Senior Justice Bellosillo has been an Associate Justice of the High Court since March 1992 until the present.

A member of UP Law Class 1957, Senior Justice Bellosillo was a practicing lawyer since his admission to the Philippine Bar up to his appointment to the Bench. He was first appointed Judge of the Court of Agrarian Relations (CAR) in Iloilo in 1971. In 1975, he became a Judge of the Court of First Instance (CFI) in Iloilo, and was its Executive Judge from 1980-82. (He was later declared adopted son of the City of Iloilo.) He was Judge of the CFI of Rizal from 1982 to '83 before being assigned to the Regional Trial Court of Pasig.

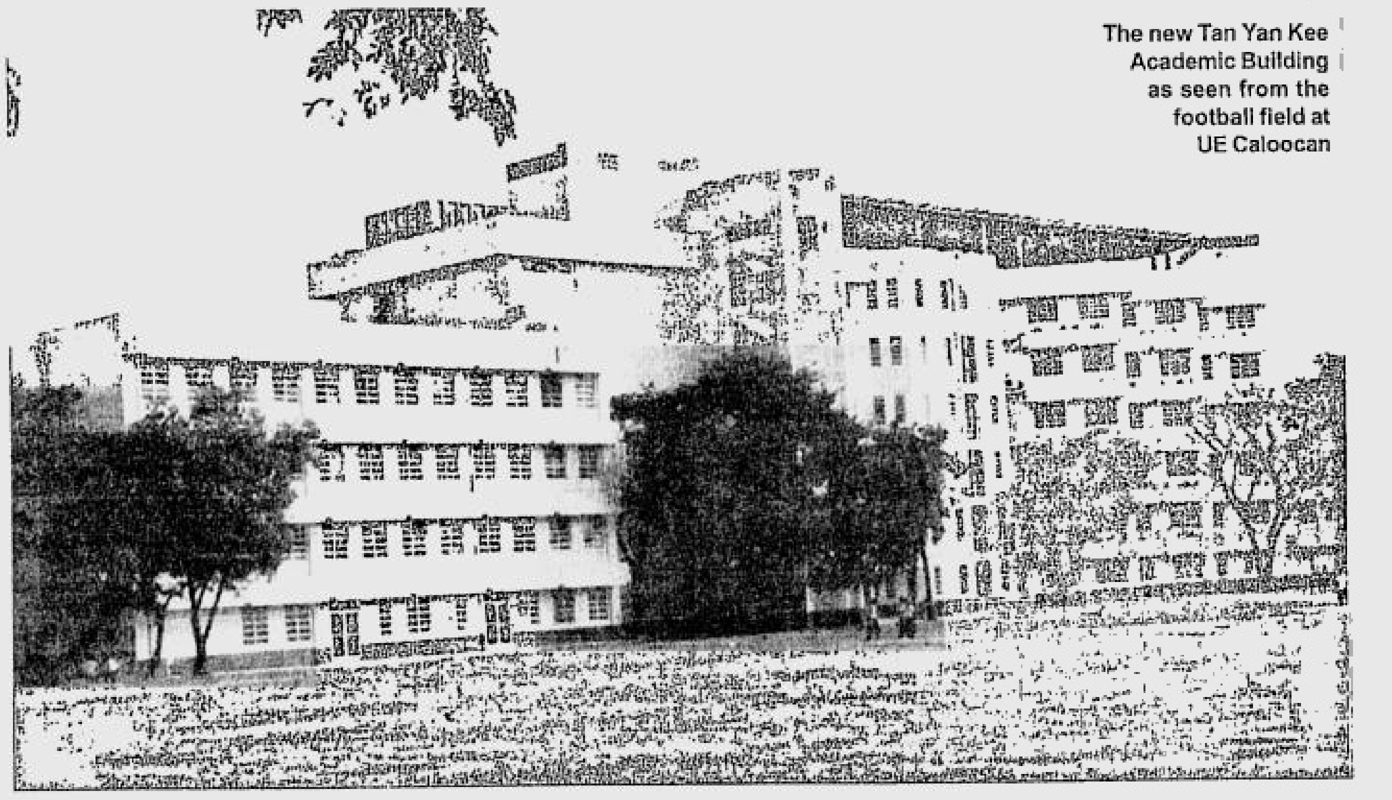
In January 1986, Senior Justice Bellosillo was promoted as Associate Appellate Justice of the Intermediate Appellate Court, and was retained in August 1986 as Associate Justice of the re-organized Court of Appeals. In February 1991, he was designated by the Supreme Court as Court Administrator, a position he held until his appointment as Associate Justice of the High Court in March of the following year.

As Senior Associate Justice, Hon. Bellosillo is the Chairman of the Second Division of the Court and the Senate Electoral Tribunal, and Vice Chairman of the Philippine Judicial Academy. He has also been the Chairman of the Oversight Committee and a consultant of the Judicial and Bar Council for around 12 years.

Senior Justice Bellosillo has also been active in the academe. A former Law professor in various colleges and universities, he is a lecturer in the Continuing Legal Studies series of the UP Law Center and the Judicial Orientation courses conducted by the Philippine Judicial Academy. *Effective Pre-Trial Technique*, which he authored and first published in 1991, is the acclaimed benchbook for trial judges, and was awarded the Centenary Book Award during the Supreme Court's Centenary Celebration.

The multi-awarded Senior Justice most recently received the Distinguished Service Award for Upholding Justice and the Rule of Law at the 50th Anniversary of Roxas City in May 2001, and the Grand Achievement Award for Law and Judiciary at the Who's Who in the Philippines Awards of the Parangal ng Bayan Foundation in September 2001. He had been conferred the Doctor of Laws degree, *Honoris Causa*, by the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Senior Justice Bellosillo will be UE's 17th *Honoris Causa* awardee.


The new Tan Yan Kee Academic Building as seen from the football field at UE Caloocan

New Academic Building Rises at UE's Caloocan Campus

The University of the East will soon unveil its newAcademic Building on the UE Caloocan Campus. The new, six-storey Academic Building will be named the Tan Yan Kee Academic Building, in honor of the late Tan Yan Kee, the father of UE Benefactor Dr. Lucio C. Tan.

The new building will be occupied by UE Caloocan's Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration and Fine Arts. The Building's facilities, which boast of high technology and modern finishes, include 54 air-conditioned classrooms, two multimedia rooms, four computer rooms, a general library, dean's offices, faculty rooms, college offices, student council offices, a cafeteria and a helipad at the roof deck.

The library, which will be located at the 6th floor, will be named the Benjamin G. Chua Jr. Library, in honor of the late UE Trustee of the same name.

The new building, which cost nearly P300 million, will also have its own PABX and fire protection systems, elevators, data/voice cabling system, clock and emergency power supply.

The construction of the new Academic Building, which is adjacent to UE Caloocan's Administration Building, began on April 9, 2002. It has a footprint of 2,800 square meters, with the second to fourth floors covering a floor area of 2,467 s. m. each, inclusive of wide lobby areas per floor. The fifth and sixth floors and the roof deck have an average floor area of 1,400 s. m. The new building was actually designed to have eleven floors; the five remaining floors will be constructed in the near future.

The general contractor for the project is A. M. Oreta Co., Inc. a Class AAA contractor accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board. The project architects are Mohri and P. A. Associates, Inc., while the project construction managers are Amalgamated Project Management Services, Inc.

The new Academic Building is part of the University's total student care program which includes upgrading facilities, continuous faculty development and curricula improvement—to give its students quality education and efficient service.

UE Caloocan, which will celebrate its 50th foundation anniversary in June 2004, is located at 105 Samson Road, Caloocan City.

Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Now a UE Trustee

THE Hon. Andres R. Narvasa, the former Supreme Court of the Philippines Chief Justice, has joined the UE Board of Trustees.

The Manila-born Trustee Narvasa was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from April 1986 to December 1991 before becoming Chief Justice from December 1991 to November 1998.

He became the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Philippine National Bank from May 1998 to May 2001 and was the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission on Constitutional Reform from February to December 1999.

A practicing lawyer, Trustee Narvasa is an Of Counsel at the Fortun, Narvasa & Salazar Law Offices from January 1952 to April 1986 and since January 1999 to the present.

After graduating in 1951 from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Law with a Bachelor of Laws degree, *Magna Cum Laude*, he earned 2nd place at the August 1951 bar examinations. Soon after, he served as a Law professor in the UST Faculty of Civil Law, then became UST's Civil Law Dean for two terms and had also been UST's Vice-Rector for Student Affairs. He has been a bar reviewer for seven law colleges.

Trustee Narvasa has published a number of books, pamphlets and monographs throughout his illustrious career, including *Odyssey and Legacy: The Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa Centennial Lecture Series* and *Per Legem Terrae (Selected Decisions)*.

He has received several awards, including the Papal Award: *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* in May 1977, the Award for Distinguished Service to Justice from the Philippine Bar Association in November 1984, the Human Rights Award from the Concerned Women of the Philippines in December 1984 and the Order of Sikatuna award conferred by then-President Joseph E. Estrada in 1999.

Trustee Narvasa has been thrice conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*: by the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and UST in 1992, and by the Angeles University Foundation in 1993.

He was a special guest of UE on August 11, 1999 to talk on "Academic Freedom: Its Legal Aspects" at the Conference Hall, as part of the lecture series in line with the 51st anniversary celebration of the College of Arts and Sciences-Manila.

UE's 57th Anniversary Activities

Theme: "Forever Loyal to Thee"

Sept. 22, Mon. > UE Manila Community Parade, featuring the UE Band, 8 a.m., UE Manila; Thanksgiving Mass, 9 a.m., UE Manila Chapel ● **Sept. 23, Tues.** > UE Caloocan Community Parade, featuring the UE Band, 9 a.m., UE Caloocan ● **Sept. 24, Wed.** > University Service Awards, 3 p.m., Conference Hall ● **Sept. 25, Thurs.** > Conferment of the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, on the Hon. Josue N. Bellosillo, 4 p.m., Conference Hall ● **Sept. 26, Fri.** > Talent Night, 6 p.m., SFC Quadrangle, UE Manila ● **Sept. 27, Sat.** > Grand Alumni Homecoming (the Jubilarians: batch 1948/Emerald, 1953/Golden, 1958/Sapphire, 1963/Ruby, 1968/Coral, 1973/Pearl, 1978/Silver), 7 p.m., Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan.

Transformation of the University since 1990 comes full circle

University of the East Now Managed By Its Own Alumni

Mr. P. O. DOMINGO
Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer
BBA 1950, Magna Cum Laude, CPA

Mr. BALTAZAR N. ENDRIGA
Acting President and
Chief Academic Officer, and
Vice President for Academic Affairs
BBA 1960, Magna Cum Laude
6th Placer, 1961 CPA Board Exams

Mrs. CARMELITA G. MATEO
Executive Vice President, Treasurer
and Chief Administrative Officer
BBA 1961
3rd Placer, 1962 CPA Board Exams

Dr. JOSE C. BENEDICTO
Chancellor, UE Caloocan
BBA 1962, CPA

Mr. NUMERIANO M. DE LA CRUZ
Vice President for Information
Technology and Systems
BBA 1973, Magna Cum Laude, CPA

Atty. CARLOS M. ORTEGA
Vice President for Legal Affairs
BBA 1952; LLB 1956, Magna Cum Laude
and Class Valedictorian

Fifty-seven years since its roots were established by lawyer-accountant-educator Dr. Francisco T. Dalupan, the University of the East remains a formidable presence in the firmament of Philippine education.

Despite the challenges posed by an ever growing number of competing academic institutions, as well as by the economic, political and other national and international dictates of the times, UE continues to be a reputable institution that provides quality education, particularly to needy but promising youth from all over the country.

Such a solid reputation prevails today, especially since the University's Management is peopled predominantly by some of its own distinguished alumni. These UE graduates who are now UE officials (*see sidebar*), with their close, personal ties with the University, are committed to ensuring that their Alma Mater reach glorious heights while remaining true to the credo mandated by Dr. Dalupan: that UE "dedicates itself to the service of the youth, country and God, and declares adherence to academic freedom, progressive instruction, creative scholarship, goodwill among nations and constructive leadership."

A BRIEF HISTORY

UE began in September 1946 as Certified Public Accountant review classes for 110 students organized by the late Dr. Francisco T. Dalupan. Only a year later, Dr. Dalupan and his associates opened the Philippine College of Commerce and Business Administration (PCCBA), which was eventually granted university status in July 1951, with Dr. Dalupan as Chairman of the Board and President.

From there, UE's growth had been phenomenal, rising to dizzying heights in Philippine education. This is, after all, the university that once had the biggest student population in the world at 65,000 per semester. That number was even surpassed in school year 1977-78, when UE's enrollment reached 69,657.

A confluence of mostly internal crises later prevailed, resulting in the University's sharp decline in the '80s. At the time, UE was saddled with loans, an accumulated operating deficit, buildings in disrepair, labor-management problems, dissatisfactory faculty attitude and student activism.

It would take the efforts of a new university administration—with one of its first batch of graduates on top—to eliminate such problems and put UE back on the right track.

A RELATIVELY SPEEDY RECOVERY

In June 1990, Mr. P. O. Domingo—one of UE's first graduates—returned to his Alma Mater to steer it towards the road to recovery.

From a condition marked by appalling realities—financially, academically, facilities-wise and morale-wise—the University more than regained solid footing under the helm of Chairman Domingo. UE became debt-free, having been given a new lease on life by fresh capital. Harmonious labor-management relations, improved faculty attitude and quality students due to improved admission and retention policies became a reality. Reforms were instituted all around, especially a system of controls that put a plug on the numerous leaks in operations.

With an indefatigable band of academic and administrative officials—not to mention the entire UE community—behind Chairman Domingo, the University was rehabilitated, relatively fast. A few years since June 1990, the members of the UE community were filled with hope, promise and enthusiasm, with a resurgence of rapport and cooperation among the faculty, the student body and the administration.

> *These UE graduates who are now UE officials, with their close, personal ties with the University, are committed to ensuring that their Alma Mater reach glorious heights while remaining true to the credo mandated by the founding Chairman and President, Dr. Francisco T. Dalupan.*

ACHIEVEMENTS THAT NURTURE ACHIEVERS

The University of the East has two campuses, UE Manila and UE Caloocan. Within these two campuses are ten colleges—two Colleges of Business Administration, two Colleges of Arts and Sciences, the Colleges of Computer Studies and Systems, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Fine Arts and Law—along with the Graduate School, the Institute of Technical Education, and the Elementary and Secondary Laboratory School.

While UE is "back to normal" compared to its turbulent years in the '80s, complacency has not set in. In fact, in recent years, the University has transcended its own recovery, constantly implementing a host of improvements that would ultimately benefit its most important people, the students.

For one thing, UE Manila enjoys deregulated status under the rules of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), for UE's consistent commitment to excellence in education, research and community extension service, as well as for meeting the status' criteria.

An academic audit of the entire University has resulted in the improvement of existing programs, with the different colleges undertaking all possible efforts to earn accreditation or re-accreditation statuses from the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACU-COA). Where applicable, a number of the colleges have introduced new course offerings that would complement the contemporary needs of industry. Speaking of the needs of the times, UE recently became the first Philippine university to forge a tie-up with Microsoft Press, for enhanced training in desktop systems and applications.

As far as national licensure board examination performance goes, UE, which initially made its mark in the CPA board exams as far back as 1947, continues to yield not just successful examinees but topnotchers in the board exams for licensed dentists, engineers, educators and librarians. Conversely, UE has produced generations of graduates that have triumphed in their respective fields of endeavor, consequently contributing to the national pool of achievers and leaders in business, accountancy, government, dentistry, engineering, fine arts, communication arts, education and the humanities. The UE alumni shown on this and the succeeding page are but a few among the many.

Complementing the University's multifarious academic feats—as well as outstanding accomplishments in the field of sports that deserve a separate article—are the millions that have been invested in the upgrading of facilities and the installation of new ones that, collectively, create an environment conducive to a rewarding student life.

In sum, the University of the East's most essential achievement has been its consistent offering of quality, well-rounded education, which is maintained through competent faculty, a holistic curriculum, modernization and computerization of facilities for better student service and a healthy campus environment. These ultimately help UE in continuously transforming the young hopefuls of today into the remarkable achievers of tomorrow.

UE ALUMNI AMONG THE ACADEMIC OFFICERS

MACARIO G. SEVILLA
Dean, College of Business Administration-Mla. /
BBA 1961, 1st Placer, 1961 CPA Board Exams

JUSTICE REYNALDO L. SUAREZ
Dean, College of Law / AB 1956, LLB 1960

DIAMPO J. LIM
Dean, College of Dentistry / DMD 1960, Magna Cum Laude

EDUARDO M. TRINIDAD
Dean, College of Business Administration-Caloocan /
BBA 1972, Cum Laude, CPA

PRESIDIO R. CALUMPIT JR.
Dean, College of Computer Studies and Systems / AB 1987

ELEANOR R. JAVIER
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences-Caloocan /
AB 1965, Cum Laude

LUZ S. STA. ANA
Director, Department of Physical Education / BSE 1957

GENER A. CARINGAL
Director, Office of Cultural Affairs / BSBA 1975

ANGELICA T. MARQUEZ
Coordinator, Community Outreach Program
and Alumni Affairs / BSE 1957

UE ALUMNI IN THE ADMINISTRATION

ANITA Y. SALVADOR
Finance Officer / BBA 1961, CPA

OFELIA T. BORJA
Director, Department of Human Resources
and Development / BSBA 1978, CPA

FELICIANA B. SANTOS
Comptroller / BSBA 1972, CPA

ANNIE J. VILLEGAS
Internal Auditor / BSBA 1981, CPA; LLB 1994

FELICIDAD R. DELGADO
Budget Officer-Chief Accountant / BBA 1962, CPA

CLODOALDO R. SANTOS JR.
University Cashier / BBA 1961

COL. AGAPITO A. BURGOS JR. (Ret.)
Director, Department of Security / BBA 1968

CORNELIO L. MARCELINO
Superintendent, Environmental Services
Office-Manila AB 1980

COURSES OFFERED

UE MANILA

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (BSA)
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) / *Majors:* Banking and Finance, Economics, Management, Marketing, Management Accounting
- BSBA (Management) Special Degree Program for Executives Without a College Degree (for entrepreneurs or executives in private enterprises for government, or for officers in the AFP without a college degree)
- Associate in Business Administration (ABA)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

- AB Broadcast Communication
- AB Journalism
- Bachelor of Arts (AB) / *Majors:* Communication Arts, Economics, English, Filipino, History, Political Sciences, Sociology, Legal Management, International Studies
- Bachelor of Science (BS) / *Majors:* Biology, Physics, Library and Information Science, Psychology, Statistics, Mathematics
- Associate in Arts (Pre-Dentistry/2 yrs.)
- Short-Term Program Leading to a Certificate of Proficiency in Mandarin, Nihongo, Fookienese, Spanish, Filipino or English

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

- Doctor of Dental Medicine (DDM)

COLLEGE OF LAW

- Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

COLLEGE OF COMPUTER STUDIES AND SYSTEMS

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)
- Bachelor of Science in IT (BSIT)
- Associate in Computer Technology (ACT)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSEd) / *Majors:* Biology, Chemistry, Physics, General Science, English, Filipino, History, Math and PEHM (a combination of PE, Health Education and Music), Guidance and Counseling, Home Economics, Computer Education
- Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEEd) with areas of specialization in English, Filipino, Home Economics and Technology, Math, PE, Science and Health, Social Studies, Pre-school or Early Childhood Education, Guidance and Counseling in Elementary Level
- Bachelor of Science in Nutrition & Dietetics (BSND)
- Certificate of Professional Education

INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

- Computer Technician Course
- Electronics Technician Course
- General Radio Communications Operator Course

GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
- Doctor of Education (EdD)
- Master in Business Administration (MBA)
- Master in Construction Management (MCM)
- Master of Arts in Education (MAEd)
- Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)
- Master in Public Administration (MPA)
- Master of Science (MS)
- Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS)

UE CALOOCAN

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (BSA)
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) / *Majors:* Banking and Finance, Economics, Management, Marketing, Management Accounting

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

- Bachelor of Arts (AB) / *Major:* Communication Arts

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communications Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Machine Shop Technician Course (1-yr. program)

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

- Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) / *Majors:* Advertising, Interior Design, Painting

The UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST 57th Foundation Anniversary

> > September 22 - 27, 2003

Some of UE's Top Alumni

{IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER}

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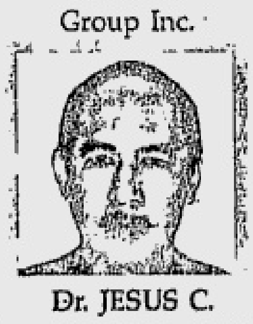
Dr. JESUS C. TUMANENG (DDM '74, Cum Laude), President of the Asia Pacific Dental Federation and President of the UE Alumni Association Inc.

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DR. OFELIA M. CARAGUE former President, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, BBA 1959

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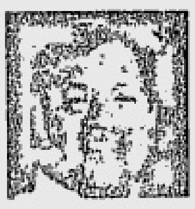
Engr. CESAR G. REYES President and CEO, Dream Broadcasting System, BSECE 1971

CELSO SAMANIEGO former President, Pacific Airways, BBA 1966


REYNATO SARMIENTO President, Real Bank, BBA 1961

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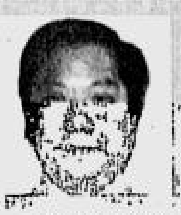
UE ALUMNI AWARDEES 2003


Mr. ANDREW L. TAN BSBA 1972, Magna Cum Laude, *Most Outstanding Alumnus*

ROMULO B. MACALINTAL LLB 1978 *Most Outstanding Jubilarian*

Atty. PETE Q. QUADRA LLB 1962 *Outstanding Alumnus for Law*

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LUISITO B. PADILLA BBA 1961 *Outstanding Alumnus for Entrepreneurship*

CONG. DEL R. DE GUZMAN AB '82, LLB '85 *Outstanding Alumnus for Arts and Sciences*

DIR. RAMON P. AQUINO BSCE 1977 *Outstanding Alumnus for Engineering*

Dr. GIRLINA E. ESTRADA BSE 1966 *Outstanding Alumna for Education*

SALVADOR M. CONVOCAR BFA 1980 *Outstanding Alumnus for Fine Arts*

FELICITAS SANTOS-ROSAL BSE 1958 *Outstanding Alumna for Library Science*

Commodore AMADO A. SANGLAY Advanced ROTC '68 *Outstanding Alumnus for the Phil. Navy*

Brig. Gen. EUSEBIO P. RAMOS BBA '68 *Outstanding Alumnus for the Philippine Army*

Atty. LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO LLB 1961 *Outstanding Alumna for Government Service*

Atty. AMY LIMSICO-WONG LLB 1978 *Distinguished Alumna for Community Service*

Associate Justice DANTE O. TINGA AB '56, LLB '60 *Special Citation for his Appointment as Supreme Court Associate Justice*

Atty. JOE-SANTOS B. BISQUERA BBA '68, LLB '92 *Special Citation in Legal Management*

Dr. LEONOR M. TRIPON-ROSERO DDM 1968 *Special Awardee in Recognition for her Appointment as PRC Commissioner*

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST PHILIPPINES 1946

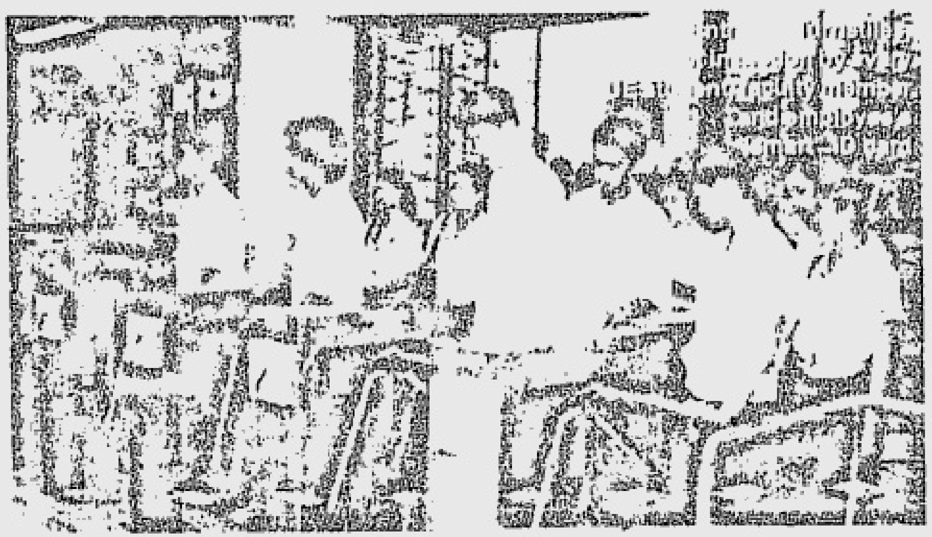
UE Turns 57!

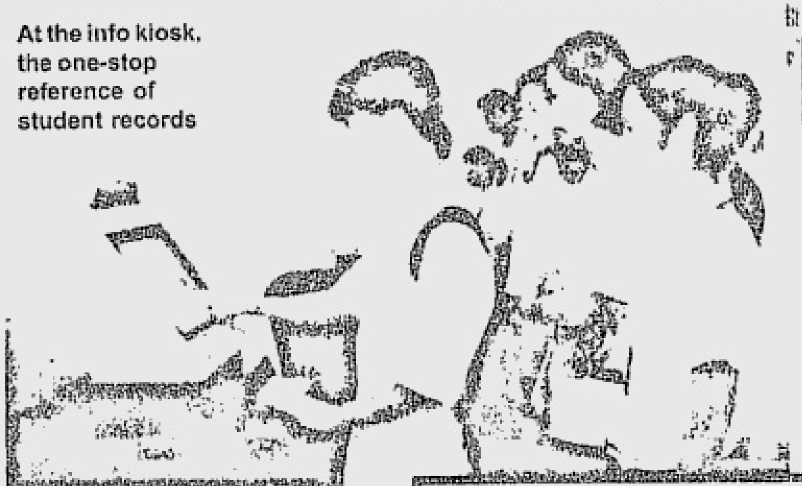
The UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST Celebrates Its 57th Foundation Anniversary
>> September 22 - 27, 2003

At UE, IT is a Way of Life

The University of the East (UE) ha[illegible] invested P320 million to beef up i[illegible]tion technology (IT) facilitie[illegible] Thi[illegible] rily to enable the virtual merging [illegible] h[illegible] Ma[illegible]d Caloocan Campuses and to allow for [illegible]nient, practical IT applications for the UE community, especially the students.

Much of the investment went into the [illegible]verall development of UE's IT infrastructure, including the renovation of the P. O. Domingo Center for Information Technology (POD-CIT) wher[illegible] the University's Main Librar[illegible] and [illegible]veral Interne[illegible] rooms, multimedia roo[illegible] 'time[illegible] [illegible]ation rooms and Data Center are located.



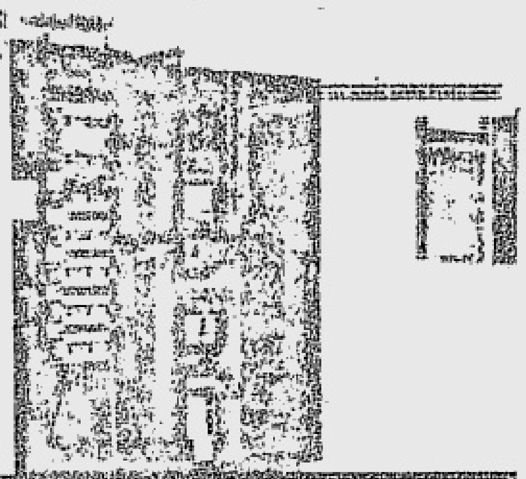


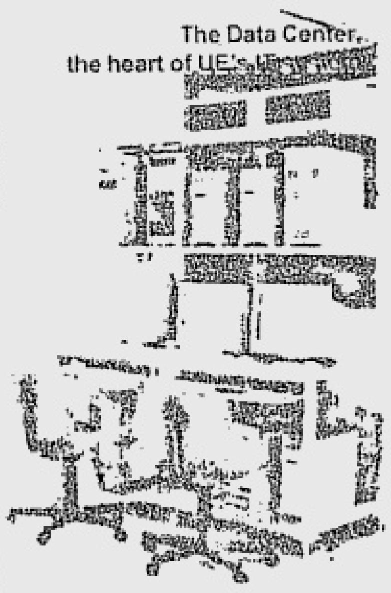
At the info kiosk, the one-stop reference of student records

FIRST TOTALLY "WIRELESS" SCHOOL

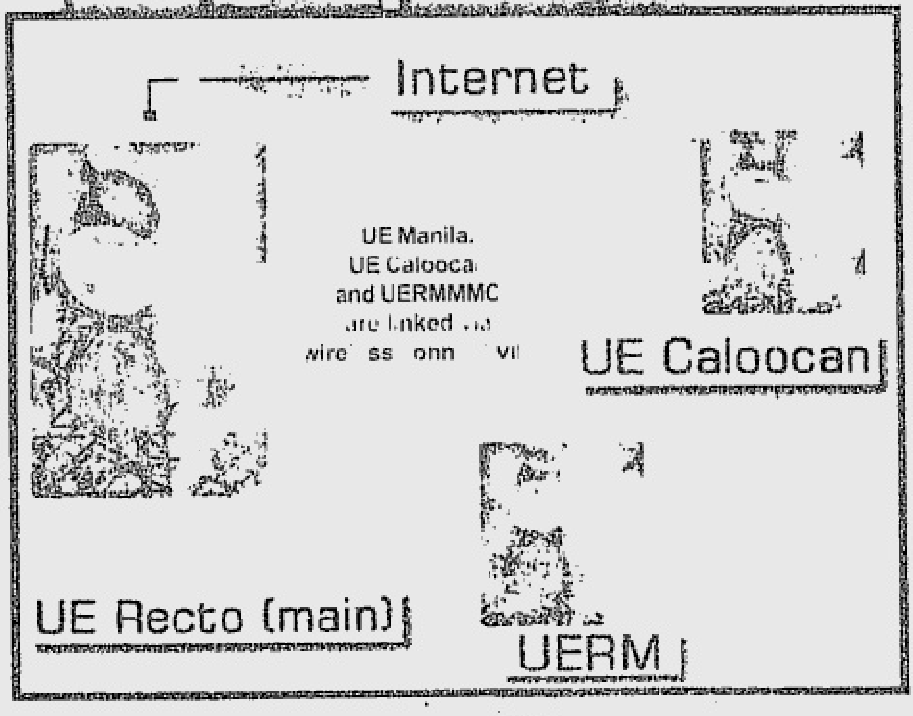
Covered by the said investment as well is the wiring of the colleges and departments of each Campus using fiber-optic technology into a local area network (LAN). The two Campus[illegible] tur[illegible] [illegible]n[illegible]ted [illegible] microwave to [illegible] wide area [illegible]twor[illegible] (WA[illegible] [illegible]b[illegible] students to gain acce[illegible] [illegible] lit[illegible] Internet-connected compute[illegible]n UE [illegible]id[illegible]

LAN technology mean[illegible] [illegible]a[illegible] th[illegible] Cam[illegible] connected to a central [illegible] versatile disk, which provid[illegible] [illegible] billi[illegible] of information per second [illegible]h[illegible] optic allows countless student[illegible] [illegible]d othe[illegible] [illegible] the U[illegible] access to UE's online faci[illegible]liti[illegible] [illegible] simultaneously. The Univer[illegible] [illegible]AN [illegible] is complemented by [illegible] w[illegible]eles[illegible] [illegible]te that virtually integrates the [illegible] [illegible]mpu[illegible] UE Manila, UE Calooca[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]R[illegible] Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (UERM-MMC) in Quezon Cit[illegible] This makes UE the first school in the country to use totally wireles[illegible] technology.





The Data Center, the heart of UE's [illegible]



UE Manila, UE Caloocan and UERMMMC are linked via wire[illegible]ss [illegible]onn[illegible] [illegible]vi[illegible]

One of UE's fully equipped advanced computer laboratories

DATA CENTER, ONLINE ENROLLMENT

A big componen[illegible] of UE's IT investment [illegible]ts aforementioned Data Center, a central [illegible]er[illegible]er that [illegible]ouse[illegible] [illegible]d integrates all the University [illegible]ompu[illegible] [illegible]erver[illegible] via a Storag[illegible] [illegible] servers act as one big [illegible]

Thanks to th[illegible] [illegible]niv[illegible] enrollment is like[illegible] [illegible] by UE' [illegible]online [illegible] [illegible]ystem's majo[illegible] Point of Sale, Studen[illegible] Module[illegible] -to make [illegible]rollm[illegible] UE [illegible]onsidered th[illegible] [illegible]nl[illegible] with a fully integrate[illegible] [illegible]llows for the compre[illegible] academic administrativ[illegible] [illegible] student[illegible] -from admission t[illegible] [illegible]du[illegible]

'SMART I[illegible] [illegible]TEKEEPER [illegible]NF[illegible] KIOSK

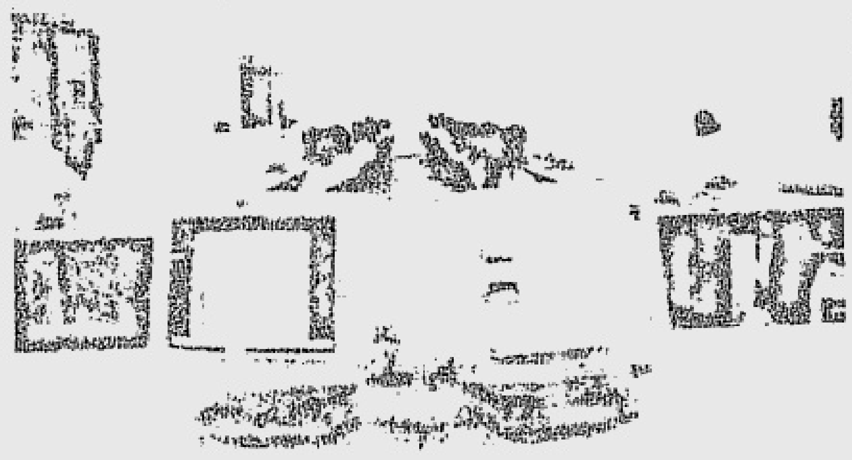
[illegible]ateKeeper software have been installed at the gates [illegible] UE Manil[illegible] [illegible] complement the use of the smart ID [illegible] identification card. The smart ID system [illegible]ltir[illegible]ately enhances the security of the UE premises [illegible]rom outsiders. (The turnstiles for UE Caloocan would be in place following the completion of the new Academic Building in that Campus.)

Besides being [illegible] basic ID card, the smart ID allows UE students to maximize the University's IT facilities giving them access to UE's electronic databases involving the library, research information banks and others [illegible] mainly through online information kios[illegible] The smart ID also serves as a 'smart money' card, allowing students to pay deposits fo[illegible] [illegible]labora[illegible] equipment, fines for [illegible]rdu[illegible] [illegible]a[illegible] [illegible]oks and oth[illegible] [illegible]ampus expenses while enrolled.

Th[illegible] info kiosks themselves [illegible] [illegible]art of [illegible] IT int[illegible] [illegible]tructure. The [illegible]nfo kiosks are [illegible] [illegible]oint [illegible]minals that [illegible] as a one-stop information [illegible]trieval system that allows for fast, eas[illegible] and safe [illegible]ess of student records anytime. Since their [illegible]tallation in 2001, the info kiosks [illegible]have been [illegible]n almost daily [illegible]topover of students on their way [illegible] their classroom or before exiting the Campus, [illegible]heck [illegible] their account balance as well as their [illegible]de[illegible] subjects and other pertinent academic

STUDY AIDS, FREE EMAIL

[illegible]JE students are also entitled to a free email account for life. Not only will students get to use this account for usual email purposes, it will also allow them access to UE facilities such as the library, their grades and other info even from Internet-connected computers outside UE.



On[illegible] of the Internet Ready [illegible]

Be[illegible] de[illegible] [illegible]asy access, [illegible] also provide[illegible] students [illegible]sing th[illegible] mo[illegible] advanced [illegible] In th[illegible] [illegible]rk[illegible] the [illegible] in UE colle[illegible] [illegible]sing LAN [illegible]mputer [illegible]d-learning [illegible]re CD-ROMs [illegible]an easily [illegible]ed into [illegible] room [illegible] [illegible]atel[illegible] [illegible] not only able to study [illegible] the [illegible]per[illegible]ence IT [illegible] hands-on [illegible]f the [illegible] [illegible]nd its diverse application[illegible] [illegible]sity Th[illegible] [illegible] U[illegible] graduates that embrac[illegible]

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Gov't forces gird for high court ruling on Kuratong

Story below, COL. 2

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2 more days to go!
Join now.

Go to page A3

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Tuesday, September 23, 2003 ★★ 44 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 287 P15
website: www.inq7.net

One-eyed kangaroo saves farmer's life

MELBOURNE, Australia—Dogs and dolphins as life-saver-heroes, yes. But a kangaroo? And half-blind at that?

A kangaroo was declared a hero yesterday after saving a farmer's life by alert-

ONE-EYED/ A6

GMA poll plan 'in God's hands'

Palace sees change of mind

IN SULU, women security aides assist President Macapagal as she disembarks from a speedboat during her visit to Marungas Island Monday. EDWIN BACASMAS

THE SHAPE of the May presidential election next year is now in God's hands.

In one of the first hints that President Macapagal-Arroyo may reverse her pledge not to run, her spokesperson said yesterday she was seeking divine guidance on the crucial decision.

"The President, I am sure, is mulling this very, very seriously and she is praying very hard for guidance," Ignacio Bunye, the presidential spokesperson, told reporters.

That language was far more vague than the strenuous denials Ms Macapagal has made about standing in the election since her shock announcement on Dec. 30 that she was turning her back on politicking to devote her attention to the economy.

Bunye confirmed that Ms Macapagal, 56, has been swamped with calls from members of her Lakas party, business leaders and other "well-meaning" people in the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic nation to seek a fresh mandate.

"She has been hearing a lot of suggestions but, in the final analysis, I am sure she will consider what is the greater interest of the country and the people," he said.

Ms Macapagal's devotion was no secret, Bunye said, describing her as a "really religious person" who attends Mass every morning.

Nine months ago, Ms Macapagal—who has described the presidency as a position "made in Heaven"—credited a message from God for her decision not to run in the election.

"It is God who puts ideas in my heart," she said.

Commentators believe that Ms Macapa-

GMA/ A8

AFP puts troops on high alert in Metro

GOVERNMENT troops were placed on heightened alert yesterday to thwart possible destabilization moves while President Macapagal-Arroyo was visiting the troubled South, a military spokesperson said.

Intelligence reports have pointed to plots by unidentified groups to stage anti-Macapagal rallies around Metro Manila, including near a historic shrine that served as a staging point for previous popular uprisings that ousted former President Joseph Estrada in 2001 and dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

A group of military personnel have been placed on standby at the Edsa shrine on Ortigas Avenue.

"The AFP (Armed Forces) has declared the red alert status effective 4 p.m. today (0800 GMT) Sept. 22," military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said.

"This is to prepare for any

AFP PUTS/ A6

No way, Senate tells House

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christine O. Avendaño

A LOSING proposition.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the proposal to elect a transition President in 2004 to pave the way for a shift to a parliamentary form of government in 2007 would never gain ground in the Senate.

"The Senate cannot be stampeded into agreeing to a constitutional assembly or a transitional presidency by pressure from other political sectors," Drilon said yesterday at a press conference.

House leaders and two advisers of President Macapagal-Arroyo want the Constitution amended on or before the 2004

SENATE/ A8

AFP downplays hunt for Al-Ghozi

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived here Monday, reportedly to check on a massive manhunt for Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, whose escape from jail has sullied her record as a staunch US antiterror ally in Asia.

But military and local officials said the President's trip, particularly in Tungawan town in Zamboanga Sibugay, was not related to the search for Al-Ghozi.

"I may presume that one of the reasons for her visit might be Al-Ghozi, but the military has already scoured the area and saw no traces of that Indonesian fugitive," said Zamboanga Sibugay Gov. George Hofer.

Leon Omoso, Philippine Information Agency director for Western Mindanao, said the President would only visit government troops in Tungawan and distribute some P50,000 worth of canned goods and assorted medicines to them.

"She is going to interact with the soldiers of the 4th Infantry Battalion and there will be an awarding ceremony there," Omoso said.

AFP DOWNPLAYS/ A5

IN ZAMBOANGA City, the President shakes hands with an American soldier during her visit to the Camp Navarro Hospital at the Southern Command. EDWIN BACASMAS

Palace admits Citibank heist shamed RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Alcuin V. Papa

MALACAÑANG yesterday admitted that the daring Aug. 25 robbery of the local headquarters of Citibank, N.A. in the heart of the country's financial district embarrassed the Philippine government abroad but expressed elation over the capture of the suspects.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the Citibank heist was an "international embarrassment" because it was the first time that a Citibank branch was robbed from among the US banking giant's various branches worldwide.

About 15 men armed with assault rifles stormed the Citibank Center in Makati City and ran off with a still undetermined amount just as the government was in the midst of frenzied preparations for the forthcoming state visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

PALACE/ A5

14 killed, 31 hurt in bus collision

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Fourteen people were killed and more than 31 others were injured, most of them seriously, when two buses collided on the national highway in Gattaran town, Cagayan, on Sunday afternoon, police and military reports said.

Members of an Army team who helped in the rescue and retrieval operations said most of the fatalities succumbed to head injuries due to the impact of the collision between the Tuguegarao City-bound Florida Bus and the Claveria, Cagayan-bound Cabulisan Bus in Barangay Nassiping at past 4:30 p.m.

The accident site is on a winding mountain road about 40 kilometers from this city.

Two vans, a Kia Pregio and a Mercedes Benz 100, also figured in the accident.

The Army's Rescue 29 team was the first to arrive at the scene. M/Sgt. Sammy Lacerna, team leader, identified seven of the fatalities as Eric Orteza, Sangguniang Kabataan chair of Cullit, Gattaran; Luciano Famorca of Laoag City;

14 KILLED/ A8

Gov't forces gird for SC ruling on Kuratong

By Leila B. Salaverria

HEADS of the government's law enforcement agencies met yesterday to discuss the Kuratong Baleleng case in what a highly placed source said was in anticipation of the Supreme Court's decision on the controversial rubout case.

The high tribunal is expected to come out with its decision today on the 1995 rubout case that implicated opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, according to a source from the National Bureau of Investigation.

But Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said that though the Kuratong Baleleng case was discussed the meeting was primarily about the agencies' preparedness "to enforce the law."

"It's not only about the Kuratong Baleleng," he said.

"It's all about how law enforcement agencies of the government like the NBI and the PNP (Philippine National Police) and the prosecution arm of the government could enforce the law and apply the rule of law upon anyone, may he be low or high, mighty or weak, because the rule of law applies to all Filipinos," the justice secretary said.

Datumanong said he had no advance information either on the Supreme Court's decision or on whether the arrest of a high-ranking official was imminent.

The case refers to the 1995 killing of 11 suspected members of Kuratong Baleleng, a group of bank robbers. Lacson, former head of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission's Task Force Habagat, and 33 others are implicated in the rubout case. A multiple murder case has been filed against Lacson. Multiple murder is an non-bailable offense.

On April 2, the Supreme Court ordered the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng cases, including the multiple murder case against Lacson. The high court directed the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 to "forthwith

GOV'T/ A8

TOP LEVEL MEETING. Heads and representatives of government law enforcement agencies meet at the NBI headquarters to discuss the security implications of a Supreme Court ruling on the Kuratong Baleleng case. They are, from left, NBI Director Wycoco, Chief Prosecutor Zuño, Justice Secretary Datumanong, Justice Undersecretary Calida, PNP Director for Operations Galang and Brig. Gen. Corpus. ERIK ARAZAS

Bishop seeks Pagcor abolition

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Jerome Aning

DAGUPAN CITY—The Catholic bishop here yesterday has called for the abolition of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., calling it "a big symbol of indolence, decadence and corruption."

Taking note of the recent INQUIRER special report on the agency, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said in a statement: "It is hard to believe that there is no corruption in Pagcor. Gambling is a vice. Vice funds Pagcor.

BISHOP/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/23/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Lack of judges causes backlog of almost 1M cases

By Carlito Pablo

LIKE a clogged artery, the country's lower courts are bogged down with close to 800,000 pending and unresolved cases.

According to a ranking House leader, the backlog in the lower courts has reached 788,308 cases as of the end last year due to the lack of judges.

"Almost one-third of the nation's lower courts have no judges," said Rep. Rolando Andaya (Lakas, Camarines Sur).

Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, was quoting a Supreme Court report submitted during recent deliberations on the proposed 2004 budget of the judiciary.

He said the backlog could be blamed on lack of incentives for lawyers to accept posts as judges. "Low pay, a punishing workload plus threats to life" have discouraged (them)," he explained.

The high court reported that out of the 2,074 positions for judges in lower courts, only 1,422 have been filled, leaving 652 vacancies.

Lower courts refer to regional trial courts, metropolitan trial courts, municipal trial courts, municipal trial courts in cities, and municipal circuit courts.

"Despite a massive campaign of the Judicial Bar Council for qualified members of the bar to cross over to the bench, there have been only a few takers," Andaya said.

He noted that only 430 out of the 861 municipal trial courts and municipal circuit trial courts—or 50 percent—had judges. Municipal trial courts in cities posted a 25 percent vacancy, with 47 out of 181 posts filled. And owing to the same shortage, only 67 out of 82 metropolitan trial courts were fully functioning.

Regional trial courts had the lowest vacancy rate at 16.7, Andaya said, since 791 out of 950 RTCs had judges.

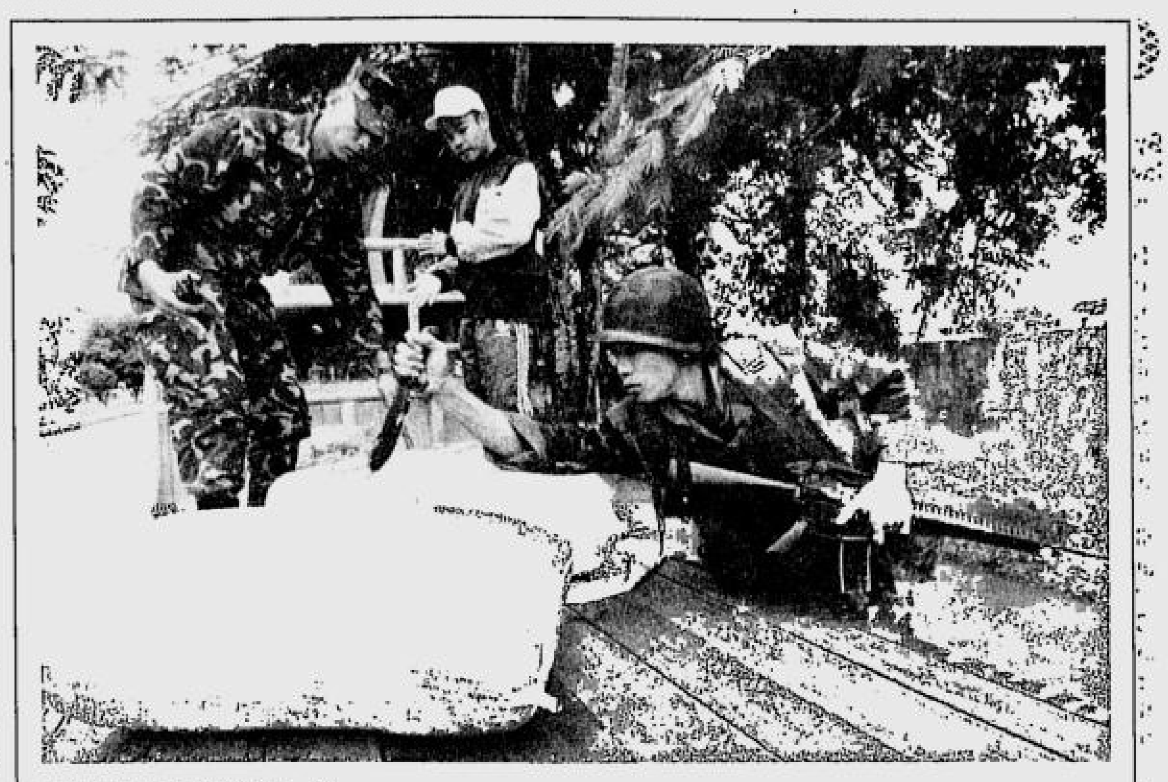
Exactly year ago this month, Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., SC administrator, warned that the "serious" situation translated to "justice denied," since it definitely resulted in "justice delayed."

Velasco urged Congress to exempt judges and other members of the judiciary from the government's Salary Standardization Law. He said competitive packages and benefits would surely entice law practitioners and new law graduates into the judiciary.

He said better wages would also address perceived corruption in the courts, although he was quick to point out that despite their "very, very low" salaries, most judges and court employees managed to lead "decent, simple, and principled" lives.

There is a pending legislation doubling the current salaries of judges and court employees.

The lack of judges and prosecutors forced the justice department last year to deputize police chiefs to prosecute criminal cases cognizable by the municipal trial courts and municipal circuit trial courts.



TAKE THAT, YOU....!!

A Marine stabs a sack of rice to check for explosives and other contraband in Jolo, Sulu, yesterday ahead of President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to check on the progress of the hunt for Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and other concerns plaguing Mindanao.

EPA/ROLEX DE LA PENA

GMA, Mahathir to meet at UN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she will meet with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to speed up the resumption of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly gathering in New York.

"I'm going to the United Nations, I'm going to talk with Prime Minister Mahathir about our peace process," Ms Macapagal said during a visit to Jolo, long a stronghold of Muslim separatist guerrillas.

Both leaders are expected to attend the United Nations meeting on Sept. 25.

Malaysia is hosting the revival of formal peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF, the main Muslim separatist group in this country.

Officials earlier said Ms Macapagal was expected to ask Mahathir to host the talks ahead of the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit to be hosted by Malaysia in the second week of October.

The President has been invited to attend the opening session of the OIC summit, making her only the fourth head of state outside the 57-member Muslim bloc to be invited to the meeting.

Ms Macapagal on Monday said she would meet with ambassadors of the OIC to press for the Philippines' bid to gain observer status in the grouping, in a move expected to bolster chances for the peace talks.

The OIC also has been furthering the peace process and OIC countries, led by Malaysia, are expected to deploy peace monitors to oversee a ceasefire between the two sides.

The President, however, stressed that any peace settlement would have to be based on the Constitution and maintain its territorial integrity, adding that "we must recognize that our land is a multi-ethnic society." *AFP*

RP open to trade talks with US after Cancun

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINES is open to bilateral trade talks with the United States following the collapse of the World Trade Organization talks in Cancun, Mexico, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said yesterday.

However, Lorenzo said the country could not afford to back down on its stand—along with 20 other nations—regarding the maintenance of protective tariffs on such products as rice, corn, swine, and poultry.

"We have nothing more to give," Lorenzo told the Inquirer in an interview. "Our tariffs are already very low; we can not afford to go lower."

Lorenzo's statements came in the wake of reports that the US and the European Union are set to push for bilateral trade pacts with individual countries, to go around the rejection by Third World countries in Cancun of another round of liberalization.

Local peasant groups, including the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said the forthcoming state visit of US President George W. Bush could include a free-trade pact proposal that might force the government to do away with tariffs on US produce.

"We are open to ideas (on bilateral trade) but not on further reducing our tariffs," Lorenzo stressed.

The KMP has maintained that the US was bent on arm-twisting the government into signing a bilateral trade agreement that would allow the world's only remaining superpower to gain concessions into the Philippine market.

KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said: "We expect Bush to ask the administration to sign a US-RP free trade agreement during his visit. This will ensure the full-scale liberalization of Philippine agriculture and economy. This is the path being taken by the US after it failed to impose its agenda on the collapsed WTO talks."

Should there be bilateral trade talks with the US, Lorenzo vowed, the government would negotiate with the welfare of local agriculture in mind.

Aside from the maintenance of tariffs at the current levels, he said, the country was disposed to demand the reduction of the US government's multi-billion dollar subsidy for its farmers.

The subsidy results in trade distortions that make Filipinos farmers unable to compete: US produce cost less than local agricultural products even in the domestic market.

Lorenzo said the country would also seek access to the US market for all local mango producers. At present, he said, only mangoes from Guimaras found their way to America.

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		Iloilo	(033) 320-0863	Zamboanga	(062) 991-2446

Kelvin Tan surfaces, sues Lacson for libel

By Tarra Quismundo

BUSINESSMAN Kelvin Tan, whom opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson implicated in his "Jose Pidal" expose, finally surfaced yesterday and filed a libel suit against the senator for allegedly maligning his reputation when he called him a "dummy and co-conspirator" of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Tan appeared yesterday at the Manila City Hall for the preliminary investigation of his case against Lacson. It was Tan's first public appearance since Lacson made the Jose Pidal expose in August.

In his privilege speech, Lacson accused Tan of maintaining "dummy" bank accounts in behalf of Arroyo. Aside from Tan, Lacson named Victoria Toh and Thomas Toh as dummies of Arroyo.

Tan said he and his family were "deeply traumatized" by the "devastating" experience. He said that he is ready to appear before the Senate to give his side of the story.

Tan, a brother-in-law of Vicky Toh, whom Lacson alleged had an affair with the First Gentleman, also belied that Toh had a romantic relationship with Arroyo.

Lacson had accused Arroyo of laundering around P200 million in campaign contributions for his wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo, and depositing these in secret bank accounts under the names of Jose Pidal, Victoria Toh, Thomas Toh and Kelvin Tan.

"But Lacson made fake accusations. We have certifications from the banks that those accounts are non-existent," said Tan's lawyer, Gelacio Mamaril.

Johnmuel Mendoza, Lacson's lawyer, said they would invoke parliamentary immunity. "What (Lacson) did was a continuance of his functions as a senator. It's his job to inform the media," he said, adding that such immunity was absolute.

Mamaril challenged Lacson to file charges before the proper court.

Tan's lawyer Roberto Arca said they have compiled different news clippings in which Lacson mentioned statements that maligned Tan. *With M. Ortiz and C. Avendaño*

Ping accuser not clean herself, says Banayo

US-BASED arms dealer Blanquita Pelaez, who has sued opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the United States for reneging on a handcuffs deal and who recently claimed the senator has acquired multimillion-peso properties, is a convicted swindler.

This was disclosed yesterday by Lacson's camp which said that Pelaez has an outstanding warrant of arrest issued by a Makati City regional trial court in connection with an estafa case in 1997.

A copy of the court ruling issued on March 14 by Makati RTC Judge Winlove Dumayas against Pelaez was released to the media yesterday.

Lito Banayo, Lacson's spokesperson and political adviser, yesterday wondered why the Philippine National Police has not arrested Perez despite the warrant of arrest.

He surmised that Pelaez was not being arrested because of her involvement in the government's plan to demolish Lacson after he raised allegations of corruption against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. *Christine O. Avendaño*

PCGG to seek reversal of ruling on Marcos loot

By Philip C. Tubeza, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Joey A. Gabieta, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government's lawyer in the United States will ask a California appellate court to overturn the "global injunction" of Hawaii Judge Manuel Real against the transfer of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth to the Philippines, PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza said yesterday.

Carranza said lawyer Steven Bombse will file the motion before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

"We have asked our lawyer in the US to get an order from the Court of Appeals to stop once and for all this foreign judge from dictating on our Supreme Court," Carranza told reporters at the Department of Justice.

"What he will do is essentially to ask the court to remind Real that in (1997) that same court had already told Real that he could not issue an injunction against the Philippine government," he said.

'Act of state'

Carranza was referring to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that overturned a Dec. 5, 1997 order by Real freezing the Marcos accounts in Credit Suisse and Swiss Banking Corp.

Citing the judicial doctrine of "act of state," the tribunal ordered Real to "take no action in any case involving Marcos funds in Swiss banks."

It noted that Switzerland "had already taken sovereign action on the matter," referring to the 1986 freeze order the Swiss issued on recovered Marcos bank deposits.

The 9th Circuit Court, however, upheld Real's first freeze order that covered all Marcos-owned bank accounts maintained in Switzerland under 26 listed names.

But Carranza said the freeze order against Credit Suisse and Swiss Banking Corp. was the "relevant injunction."

It was originally against the Marcoses but, for some reason, he said, its now against the Philippine government.

"We have sovereign immunity. No foreign court, whether American or in any other country, can tell us what to do. We should not let pass any insult on our own Supreme Court," Carranza said.

GMA warning

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned those blocking the transfer of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth to the government, saying they were prolonging the injustice that has been committed against the people.

"The more delay in the release of these funds means the greater is the injustice against our people," she said in a statement.

"Whoever is working to impede the course of justice will have to answer to the people, especially those who have long been victims of social and political tyranny," she said.

The Marcos heirs, an American judge and a German bank have posed objections to the transfer of the $683-million escrow account to the Philippine government.

The Supreme Court earlier ruled that the Marcos deposits, held by the Philippine National Bank in escrow in various banks in Asia, were ill-gotten and should be forfeited in favor of the government.

Of the amount estimated at P38 billion, Ms Macapagal has earmarked P30 billion for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and P8 billion to compensate Marcos human rights victims.

Malacañang has ordered the PCGG to exert all efforts to recover the money.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye had scored the Marcos family for their "lack of concern for the plight of landless farmers and martial law victims" by placing obstacles to the transfer of the money to the Philippine treasury.

"It's time to put a proper closure on this case after having it pend for so long," Bunye said.

He said it was time the beneficiaries of the ill-gotten wealth got their share of the money.

But Ilocos Rep. Imee Marcos said the Philippine government should be blamed for the setbacks it suffered in its efforts to recover the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

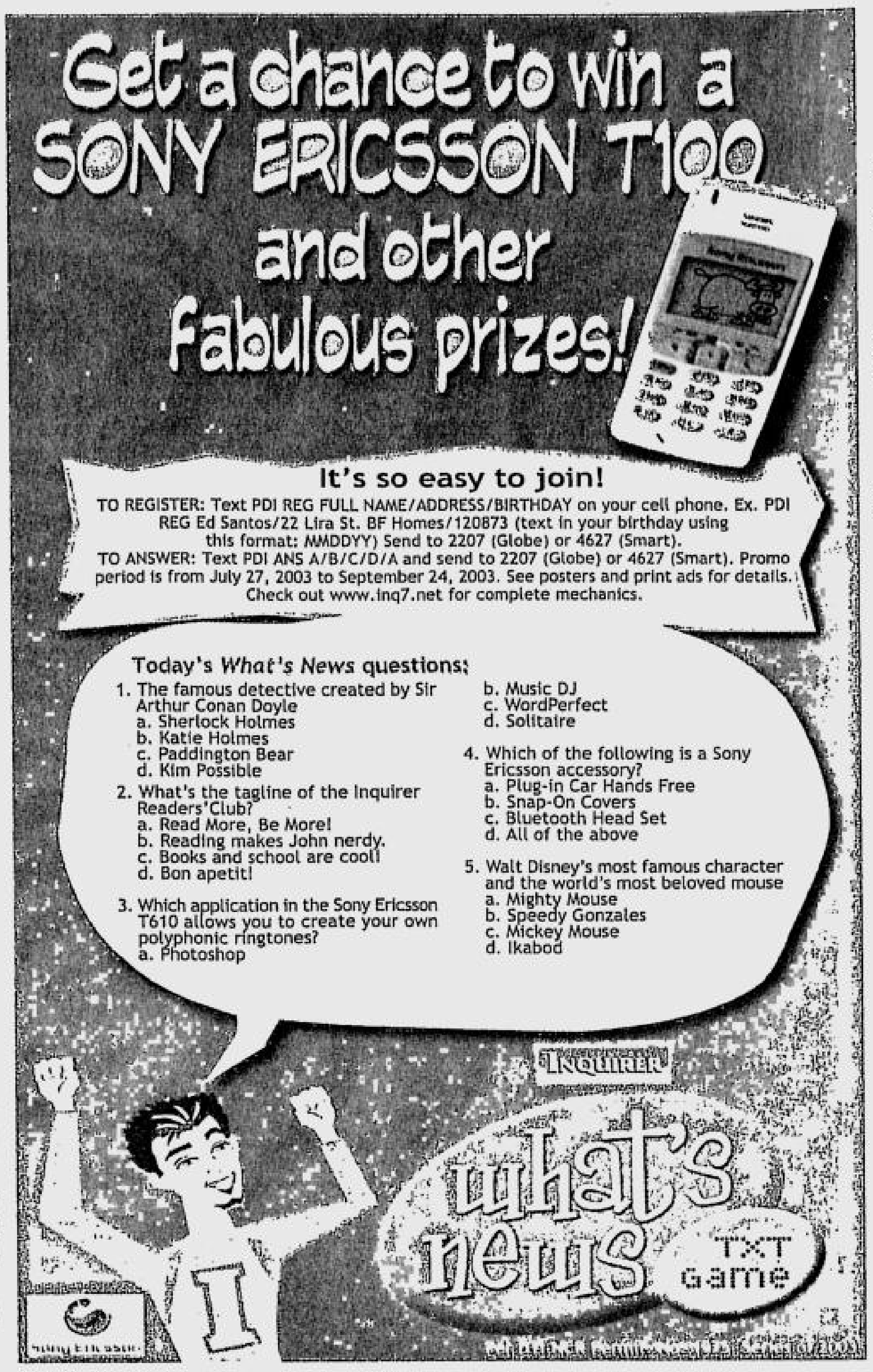
Avoided

Marcos said Sunday that had the Philippine government agreed with the proposal of the Marcos family to resolve the matter within the country's courts and jurisdiction, the setbacks it suffered at the hands of Hawaii Judge Manuel Real and German-owned bank West-Lb AG could have been avoided.

"Our consistent position simply has been ... that we should have done this here in the Philippines and now that we have subjected and submitted ourselves to all kinds of jurisdictions, the issue has become more muddled," she told the INQUIRER Sunday night when she attended the "Best of the Regions Festival" showcasing Eastern Visayas held at Intramuros, Manila.

She said that with the decisions of both Real and the German bank, it would now be very difficult for both parties to claim the money.

"The issue has become very muddled. So many countries are now involved," she said.



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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. The famous detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
   a. Sherlock Holmes
   b. Katie Holmes
   c. Paddington Bear
   d. Kim Possible
2. What's the tagline of the Inquirer Readers' Club?
   a. Read More, Be More!
   b. Reading makes John nerdy.
   c. Books and school are cool!
   d. Bon apetit!
3. Which application in the Sony Ericsson T610 allows you to create your own polyphonic ringtones?
   a. Photoshop
   b. Music DJ
   c. WordPerfect
   d. Solitaire
4. Which of the following is a Sony Ericsson accessory?
   a. Plug-in Car Hands Free
   b. Snap-On Covers
   c. Bluetooth Head Set
   d. All of the above
5. Walt Disney's most famous character and the world's most beloved mouse
   a. Mighty Mouse
   b. Speedy Gonzales
   c. Mickey Mouse
   d. Ikabod

INQUIRER what's news TXT Game

Napolcom: Missing cops not necessarily 'ghosts'

By Margaux Ortiz and Alcuin Papa

A RANKING official of the National Police Commission (Napolcom) yesterday denied radio reports that 1,095 police personnel earlier declared as "missing" were all "ghost employees."

Napolcom Director Agaton Vergara, head of the Investigation Monitoring Inspection Service, said initial reports from his six teams conducting spot checks at Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters in Camp Crame only meant that the men who were "unaccounted for" were not physically present.

On the other hand, he said: "We're not discounting the possibility that there could be ghost employees still receiving salaries from the government, but we do not have the evidence to prove it."

He regretted that information on the head count was released "prematurely," he said, since the missing officers could have been on assignment, or undergoing training, outside Metro Manila.

Vergara stressed that proper procedures were being followed in the ongoing personnel audit. After the inspections, he said, the PNP would be asked to explain the missing officers, and investigations would be conducted, if necessary.

The audit was still in its first phase, which had one more week to go, Vergara pointed out. "Who knows, (the inspectors) might discover more discrepancies ... the point is, we haven't even finished with the initial assessment."

In any case, PNP Director for Police Community Relations Ricardo de Leon said he had required all unit commanders to explain why the 1,095 men were absent during the Napolcom inspection.

De Leon said the PNP was not taking the report lightly. But like Vergara, he said the missing men could have been on duty elsewhere during the head count. He gave as an example the Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO), to which 549 of the "unaccounted for" officers reported.

The PSPO was tasked with providing close-in security for foreign dignitaries, government officials, VIPs and private individuals whose lives were under threat, De Leon said. "It is highly possible that these PSPO personnel missed the inspection because they were on security detail at the time."

He said the PNP Directorate for Personnel and Records Management had an "efficient system" of monitoring the status of all current and non-current personnel at any given time.

Meanwhile, De Leon said administrative charges were being prepared against some 241 policemen who failed to appear at hearings for drug cases.

Despite letter from ma, Jinggoy still can't leave

NOT EVEN a letter from his mother could convince Sandiganbayan justices to let former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada travel to the United States.

For the second time this year, the anti-graft court under Presiding Judge Minita V. Chico-Nazario trashed Jinggoy's request to leave the country. The co-accused in the plunder charges against his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, said he was going to the US to accompany his mom, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Estrada, who was going for a medical checkup.

In her three-page resolution, Nazario "denied for lack of merit" the young Estrada's motion, filed through lawyer Noel Malaya.

Nazario, who chairs the Sandiganbayan's special division hearing the plunder cases, pointed out that "the right of the state is paramount over an individual's right to travel."

In her letter, Senator Estrada said she was visiting Filipino communities in Malaysia and meeting with a Dr. Debra Ikeda at the Stanford University Medical Center in California, and that she needed "moral support" from her son.

Jinggoy, in his motion, said he was also to undergo an "exhaustive medical checkup" at Stanford. He promised to return before the end of the month.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio struck down the motion as "flimsy and shallow." If Senator Estrada needs a companion, he demanded, "why choose a son who is out on bail?"

Jinggoy first asked for permission to travel abroad right after he was allowed to post P500,000 bail in May. *Armand N. Nocum*

Gloria resets Middle East trip

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has rescheduled a three-nation trip to the Middle East originally set for this week, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Ms Macapagal had planned to visit Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait beginning Sept. 21, but the DFA said this would be put back, possibly to December.

The trip was postponed due to scheduling conflicts with some of the leaders in the Mideast countries, the department said.

The President has recently cut short or postponed some of her foreign trips due to concerns about destabilization plots against her government after a failed military mutiny on July 27.

Later this month, she is scheduled to leave for New York and Paris. *AFP*

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Honasan asks SC to stop DOJ probe on coup charges

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION Sen. Gregorio Honasan yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the Department of Justice from conducting its preliminary investigation into the coup d'état charges filed against him in connection with the failed July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

In a 59-page petition, Honasan, through his lawyer Daniel Gutierrez, asked the High Court to immediately issue a temporary restraining order against the DOJ while the SC hears his plea and for the tribunal to dismiss the charges against him due to "lack of jurisdiction" by the DOJ over his case.

According to Honasan, the Office of the Ombudsman has proper jurisdiction over his case since the criminal acts he allegedly committed were done "in relation to his office."

Honasan also told the DOJ that he would not submit his counter-affidavit until the SC resolves his petition. The DOJ has given Honasan until today to file his counter affidavit, otherwise it will resolve the case based solely on police evidence.

"Honasan is a public officer and the charges against him arose in the line of duty. If he is to be prosecuted at all, it should be by an independent constitutional office, the Ombudsman. The DOJ has no legal authority to prosecute a public officer whose acts were performed in connection with his office," the senator's petition said.

Honasan filed the petition after the DOJ panel investigating his case failed to rule on his motion to clarify jurisdiction. Instead, the DOJ said it would rule on Honasan's motion when it issues its final resolution.

Honasan also asked the High Court to strike down as unconstitutional a joint-circular between the Ombudsman and the DOJ (No. 95-001) that allows the Ombudsman to deputize DOJ prosecutors.

Citing the doctrine of non-delegation of powers, Honasan said no government department except when authorized by the Constitution can abdicate its authority or escape responsibility by delegating any of its powers to any body.

Honasan added that since the circular was not published, it is not valid.

At the DOJ, Gutierrez formally asked the panel of prosecutors to defer its investigation of Honasan until the SC rules on his petition.

In a statement, Gutierrez said they petitioned the High Court because they were questioning the DOJ's refusal to rule on their earlier motion seeking to clarify whether the justice department should have jurisdiction over their case.

The four issues that Honasan wants the High Court to resolve include:

- Whether or not the DOJ has jurisdiction to conduct a preliminary investigation of Honasan considering that he is a public official with salary grade 31 and charged with coup d'état in relation to his office;
- Whether the DOJ has been authorized and deputized to conduct preliminary investigations;
- Whether the DOJ joint circular is valid and
- Whether the DOJ erred in deferring the resolution on petitioner's motion to clarify jurisdiction while proceeding with the conduct of preliminary investigation despite its lack of authority.

It was not Bichara

ALBAY Gov. Al Francis C. Bichara was not among the three governors from Bicol who were reportedly betting up to millions of pesos at a cockfight derby at the Caceres Sports Arena in Naga City on Sept. 19.

The INQUIRER ran a front-page story yesterday saying Bichara and the governors of Masbate and Camarines Norte were at the derby as was former Sen. Nikki Coseteng and all four were betting heavily.

Bichara was not in Naga at the time, the INQUIRER has learned, but his name was on a signboard and a chair reserved for guests.

The INQUIRER's Southern Luzon Bureau and its correspondent, Juan Escandor, have apologized to Bichara for the error.

DPWH exec facing graft raps suspended

By Armand Nocum

THE OMBUDSMAN yesterday ordered the suspension without pay of Public Works Regional Director Romeo Panganiban in connection with a graft case alleging he had accumulated close to P100 million in unexplained wealth.

In an eight-page order, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo cited the "strong evidence of guilt" against Panganiban as the basis for ordering his six-month suspension.

Malacañang's Transparency Group under Assistant Secretary Nick Conti found Panganiban had P81.7 million in undeclared real and personal properties over and above his declared net worth of P12.9 million in 2001.

Panganiban's undeclared assets reportedly include a P30-million cockpit in Sta. Cruz, Laguna; a P24.8-million home in posh Ayala Alabang, and a $300,000 (P15 million) house in Pasadena, California. He was also able to pay kidnappers a P4.8-million ransom to release him in 2002.

Marcelo said one of Panganiban's kidnappers—Cancio Cubillas Jr. of the Villaver gang operating in Southern Tagalog—has offered to become a "state witness" against the public works official.

"According to Cubillas, Panganiban was released after his family paid P4.8 million in cash and P50,000 in jewelry," Marcelo said.

Panganiban has 10 days to submit his counter-affidavit.

Panganiban was charged with graft last Aug. 21 along with four other government officials, namely, Public Works Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto, customs deputy commissioner Gil Valera, deputy collector Jaime P. Maglipon and customs miscellaneous chief Flor A. Aguilar.

Last week, Marcelo ordered the six-month suspension of Aguilar.

Although her net worth was only P1.1 million in 2002, investigators found that she owned at least three real estate properties worth more than P13 million, as well as luxury vehicles like two BMWs and a P1.5-million Isuzu Trooper.

She and her daughters reportedly took foreign trips during her 28 years in the service that cost a total of P6 million.

Ombudsman sources said five other officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Bureau of Internal Revenue have failed the government's lifestyle check and will be charged with graft this month.

Palace clamps down on used car imports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG yesterday ordered a clamp down on the importation of used vehicles through the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in an apparent bid to appease local automobile assemblers.

The importation of used cars has hurt local assemblers and forced them to cut back on their operations resulting in the layoff of workers, the assemblers said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to coordinate with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Felicito Payumo to restrict the importation of used vehicles via Subic.

The President gave the order after local assemblers led by Ford Motor Co. Philippines appealed to her anew to address one of the big problems of the local auto industry.

The importation of used vehicles, mostly from Japan and South Korea, has grown significantly in the last three years due to their low cost and huge profits to be made from selling them in the domestic market.

The local automotive industry, which has warned the public of the safety risks and high maintenance costs of buying used imports, has blamed their popularity for the sluggish sales of new vehicles in the country.

The President earlier signed Executive Order No. 156 which laid down state policy reforms to spur the development of the local automotive industry, including a ban on the importation of used vehicles (except light trucks, buses and special purpose vehicles).

The EO was one of the President's commitments to assemblers in exchange for increased investments in assembly plants and parts-making facilities.

But the implementation of the EO was stopped after the Motor Vehicle Importers Association of Subic Bay Freeport Inc. obtained an injunction in March from the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 23, 2003
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20
Gospel:	Lk 8:19-21

Then his mother and his relatives came to him, but they could not get to him because of the crowd. Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and wish to meet you." Then Jesus answered, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

Commentary

"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." An Islamic theologian once said that after Allah, the one deserving our respect is first our mother, second our mother and third our mother. If there is a mirror of God's love on earth, then it is the love of a mother towards her child. For sure Jesus experienced the love of Mary and this concretized the love of God the Father for him. This enabled Jesus also to go out and love people around him especially the last, the less and the least. But there is one quality of Mary that Jesus liked best: Mary hears the word of God and keeps it. And because of this she is the most blessed of all women as spoken by Elizabeth. Mary deserves our respect, she is the mother of a new spiritual family founded by Jesus. Hail Mary...

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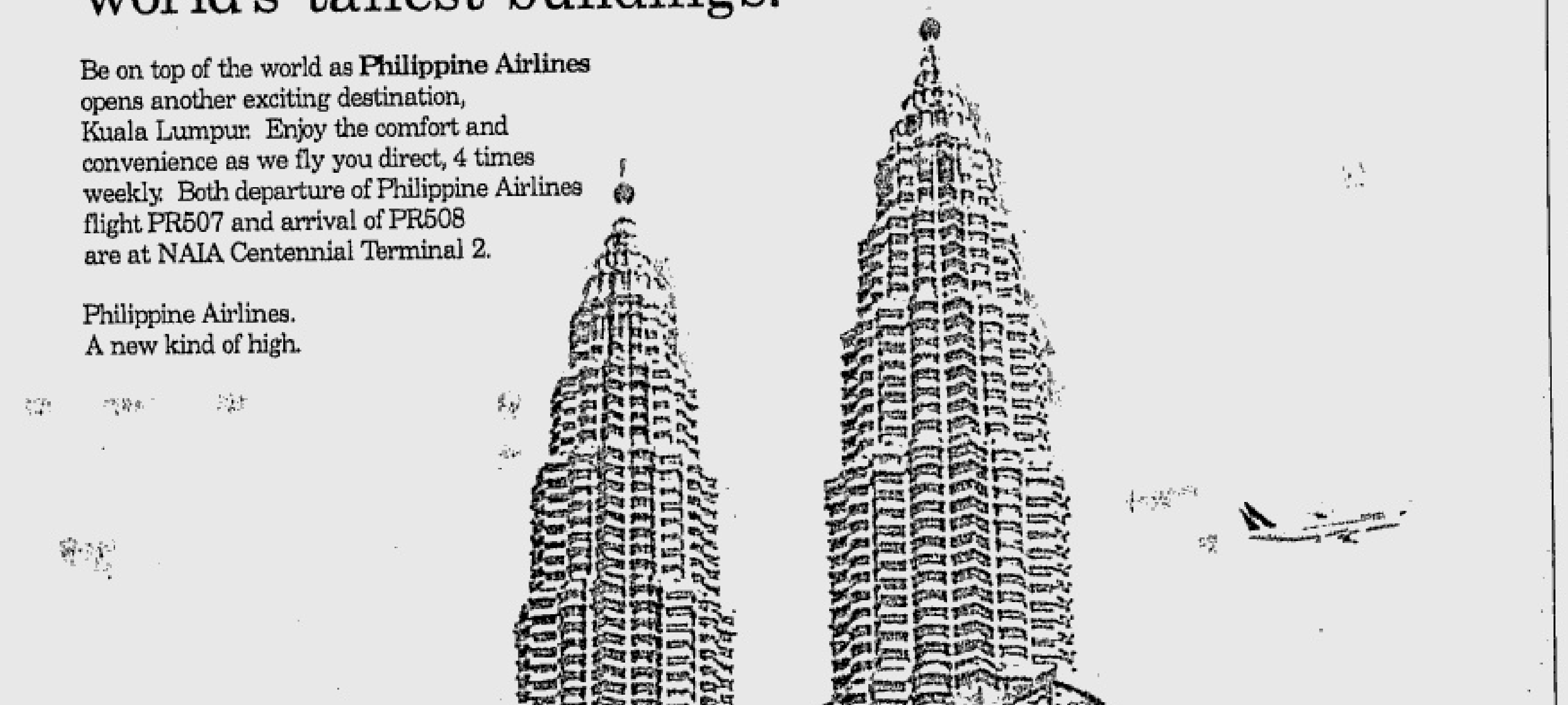

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Palace admits Citibank heist shamed RP

From page A1

The US-based Citibank, which started operations in the Philippines on July 14, 1902, ranks No. 5 among the banks operating in the country with total assets of P225 billion as of the second quarter this year. Its mother firm, Citigroup,. is the world's largest bank in terms of assets.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday commended the police and military for the arrest of the suspects in the Makati heist in a "determined and forceful fashion."

A combined force of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines swooped down Sunday on Palar Village in Taguig, Rizal, and arrested 12 alleged members of a bank robbery gang, mostly retired military personnel.

The gang is suspected to be involved in the Citibank robbery last Aug. 25.

Suspect surrenders

The alleged gang leader identified as retired M/Sgt. Rodolfo Romero surrendered yesterday to PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said: "The next step is to establish the links between this group and other underworld networks so that we can bring these criminal conspiracies out of the woodwork."

The President and top law enforcement officials recently linked unscrupulous politicians to the rash of kidnappings and bank robberies which were allegedly part of destabilization attempts against the government.

"This is part of a self-cleansing process within the AFP and PNP as much as it is a serious crackdown on organized crime. Rogues in uniform will be exposed, arrested and prosecuted," Ms Macapagal said.

The President also ordered the PNP to track down the suspects in the gold bar robbery in Benguet "with the same degree of decisiveness and alacrity."

On Saturday, masked gunmen barged into the compound of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. in Mankayan, Benguet, killing four guards and an engineer before carting away more than $200,000 worth of gold bars.

Police said Romero, a retired Army soldier, is the president of the local homeowners association in Palar Village, Taguig. He denied involvement in bank robberies.

Popular in his neighborhood for his "Robin Hood" image, Romero appeared at Ebdane's office at around lunch yesterday accompanied by Army Capt. Wendell Anterola whose subordinate facilitated Romero's surrender.

"We welcome the voluntary surrender of M/Sgt. Romero, and we shall conduct the proper investigation to verify his involvement in the organized crime group," Ebdane said.

15 arrested

Ebdane also announced the arrest of four more suspects, aside from Romero, bringing to 15 the total number of suspects. arrested by police in the Taguig raid. They were identified as Joel Balbin, Jory Padora, Carlos Batalla and Alexander "Boy" Reyes.

Senior Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, deputy chief of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said they were still evaluating the evidence gathered from the raid and had yet to pin down Romero and the other suspects to the bank robberies, particularly the Citibank robbery in Makati.

Alejandrino said Romero and the others are also considered suspects in the spate of bank robberies in Metro Manila in the past few months.

Charges of illegal possession of explosives will initially be filed against Romero after two rocket-propelled grenades were found inside his house.

AFP downplays hunt for Al-Ghozi

From page A1

Col. Emmanuel Cayton, 102nd Army Brigade commander, said Ms Macapagal's visit to Tungawan "has nothing to do with this Al-Ghozi, there is no Al-Ghozi, please."

He said the President would be there "to boost the morale of our troops and at the same time, share and experience the danger our soldiers are facing every day."

Ms Macapagal arrived at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Barangay Sta. Maria here at around 9:30 a.m. After a brief chat with Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat and Gov. Parouk Hussein of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, she took a helicopter to Sulu to grace the 613th founding celebration of Luuk town.

The President's first stop was Jolo Island, where government troops are battling the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group linked to the al-Qaida network of terrorists. She was expected to award a power project and houses to poor villagers.

As part of the tight security, a swarm of soldiers ringed the provincial capital where she delivered a speech. Armored troop carriers could be seen on key roads.

Ms Macapagal was expected to return to this port city in the afternoon and visit wounded soldiers at the Camp Navarro Hospital inside Southern Command headquarters. She will stay overnight and meet military commanders overseeing a search for Al-Ghozi, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Al-Ghozi, suspected of involvement in bombings three years ago that killed 22 people in Manila, escaped July 14 from a maximum security cell in the national police headquarters at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

The incident was a major blow to Ms Macapagal's efforts to battle suspected terrorists, and drew concerns from US and Southeast Asian officials because of his reported bomb-making skills and alleged involvement in previous bombing attacks and plots in the region.

Philippine police and military officials say all signs indicate Al-Ghozi is hiding with protection from armed groups in the South, moving constantly to avoid detection.

Although Al-Ghozi's possible hiding spots have been limited by an intensifying manhunt, Bunye said it was difficult to tell when the fugitive could be caught.

"It's very difficult to put a definite time frame, but all efforts are being exhausted," he said in a radio interview.

Al-Ghozi, who police say is a confessed member of the Jemaah Islamiyah, is a suspected al-Qaida ally in Southeast Asia. He was serving a 12-year prison term for possession of explosives and was scheduled to be arraigned in connection with the 2000 Manila bombings when he escaped with two suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

PRESIDENT Macapagal receives a warm welcome from Tausug women during her visit to Jolo, Sulu, Monday. Beside the President is Sulu Gov. Yusof Jikiri. EDWIN BACASMAS

The jailbreak was especially humiliating for Ms Macapagal because it happened as she was hosting Australian Prime Minister John Howard in Manila for antiterrorism talks.

The government's failure to capture Al-Ghozi has added to security concerns ahead of US President George W. Bush's Oct. 18 visit to Manila.

Kuwaiti probed

Immigration officials are looking into the records of a Kuwaiti national linked by the intelligence community to the Jemaah Islamiyah.

The suspect, Jasem Alhassan, was arrested Sunday morning by agents of the Naval Intelligence Service at the Zamboanga City International Airport.

Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Southcom chief, said Alhassan was being held for questioning after his companion, a certain Abu Omar, was found to be a member of the Abu Sayyaf.

Kyamko refused to divulge other details, but hinted that they were also checking on Alhassan's direct involvement with the Jemaah Islamiyah.

Capt. Jessie Servo of the Bureau of Immigration based here revealed that Alhassan was married to a Filipina Muslim in 1998 in Basilan. The Kuwaiti was using Mustafa as his surname "and not Alhassan as the one reflected in his passport now," he said.

"We are checking this discrepancy in his marriage certificate to a Muslim Filipina and his passport," Servo said.

He added that Alhassan, after marrying his Filipina wife, immediately left the country in 1998. Alhassan briefly visited his wife in 2001, he added.

Foundation

He also confirmed that Alhassan's entry to the country was facilitated by the Southeast Asia Development Foundation Inc. (Sadfi), which is based in Banale, Pagadian City. The group is engaged in the construction of madrasah Islamic schools), orphanages and mosques in Muslim-populated areas in Mindanao.

Earlier, Ustadz Ismael Sindatoc, Sadfi chair, revealed that his organization was receiving funds from nongovernment organizations in the Middle East. mostly from Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Sources from the intelligence community have also revealed that Alhassan's supposed visit and inspections of Sadfi projects were just "a cover-up." His real purpose, they alleged, was to facilitate the escape of Al-Ghozi "from the country."

The sources added that Alhassan's companion, Omar, was positively identified by a military informant in the ranks of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as the one who met Al-Ghozi recently in an undisclosed place in the Triple SB (Tungawan, Sibuco, Sirawai, Siocon and Baliguian) complex that covers three towns in Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay.

With reports from Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AP

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AFP puts troops on high alert in Metro

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From page A1

eventuality that may arise during the absence of the President and this is also a reaction to some intelligence reports that there are some groups who are planning to conduct rallies during her absence," he said.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, however, told the INQUIRER that it is standard operating procedure to place all military units on the highest alert whenever the President leaves for abroad.

The President will leave tomorrow night on a five-day trip to Europe and the United States.

"It is SOP that such joint task forces such as the Task Force Libra and Task Force Edsa Shrine are activated during the red alert status," Garcia said in an interview.

Task Force Libra is concerned with containing any "contingency situation" in Metro Manila while Task Force Edsa Shrine is concerned with securing the popular rallying point.

The red alert status, however, also comes on the eve of the Supreme Court's expected en banc resolution of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's case in connection with the Kuratong Baleleng rubout.

The President left Monday for a short trip to check on anti-terror operations in Sulu and the Zamboanga peninsula. She is due back in Manila today.

Ms Macapagal in July quashed an uprising by more than 300 soldiers who had accused her and other top military officers of corruption. The government contends it was part of a larger plot to assassinate Ms Macapagal and replace her with a 15-man junta led by opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Honasan, a former army colonel who led several bloody coup attempts in the 1990s, denied the allegations.

Leaders of the uprising have all been jailed while others who were only duped into joining were later freed. Rumors of continuing coup plots, however, have been persistent, forcing Ms Macapagal to constantly check with military officials and seek support from retired generals.

Honasan applied to the Supreme Court on Monday to order the justice department to drop coup d'état charges filed against him by the police.

He contended that the office of the Ombudsman and not the justice department had jurisdiction over his case.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President has "effectively consolidated the military from top to bottom."

"She enjoys wide support from the members of the military, the members of the police, even the majority of our people and we don't think any destabilization plot will succeed," Bunye told reporters.

Lucero said a special military task force had been activated to thwart anti-Arroyo moves, and a battalion-size unit had been deployed to the military headquarters as a back-up force.

"We just want to have enough troops to assist in crowd control in case we need these groups to join in maintaining peace and order in Metro Manila," Lucero said. *Reports from Norman Bordadora and AFP*

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One-eyed kangaroo saves farmer's life

From page A1

ing his family that he was lying unconscious nearby.

A leading animal welfare body said the 10-year-old western grey, known as "Lulu," should be nominated for a national bravery award. But the family of farmer Len Richards, 52, was simply glad she had alerted them to his plight.

"She was making this noise which sounded like a dog barking and she was obviously trying to get our attention because she never acts like that," said Richards' 17-year-old daughter Celeste.

"It went on for about 15 minutes, so we went outside to investigate and we saw Lulu standing upright with her chest puffed out over Dad's body."

Richards had been checking a tree in a paddock about 300 meters from the house during stormy weather, when he was struck by a falling branch and knocked unconscious. The incident occurred on his hobby farm near Morwell, in eastern Victoria.

"If it wasn't for her, my dad could have died. We might not have found him for ages," Celeste said. "Lulu and Dad are very close and she follows him around, but we all just love her so much. Lulu is my hero."

It was a fair payback by the kangaroo, which the family rescued as an infant after her mother was killed in a road accident. She has only one eye and the family says she thinks she is a dog.

Richards was taken to hospital in Melbourne with severe head injuries but was later released.

The incident has been compared to the Australian children's TV show "Skippy," about a kangaroo that solves crimes. The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) said Lulu should be nominated for one of its national bravery awards.

"From my point of view it's a darn good story and I would hope that Lulu is nominated," RSPCA president Hugh Wirth said. *AFP*

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Bishop seeks Pagcor abolition

From page A1

Its cause being vicious, Pagcor cannot be virtuous."

"Get rid of Pagcor," he said. "The country cannot point to it as its symbol of pride and achievement but a big symbol of indolence, decadence and corruption."

Cruz, former president of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said the recent news reports about alleged mismanagement and anomalies in Pagcor could have opened a "can of big fat worms."

He added that the non-showing of the Probe team television story delving on the issue "betrayed a high-handed intervention… to kill it" and was "already a clear indication that there is both smoke and fire in that infamous government corporation."

Cruz's denunciation contrasted with a draft statement supposedly from the "professional and patriotic managers" of Pagcor reported being passed around for signing at the agency.

The statement, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, bewailed "recent media reports that have put our beloved company, including the leadership of our chairman Efraim C. Genuino, in a bad light."

"We are disturbed and saddened by these reports knowing that they distort pertinent facts and do not at all reflect the true state of affairs in our company," the statement said.

It added, "We attest to the fact that Pagcor's position as the most profitable company in the country for the year 2002 was the result of the effective and dynamic management of Chair Genuino and our board of directors."

Cruz asked why the government continued to ban public officials from patronizing casinos if they were places that brought honor and distinction.

"If casinos are sources of good works, how about the big social ills they cause, such as fortunes lost; families broken, children's futures destroyed, possessions sold, loan sharks fattened, hoodlums attracted?" he asked.

He also noted that while casino games patronized by the rich and powerful is considered legal by the government, *jueteng* (a numbers game), played by the poor and the simple people were held as illegal.

Cruz himself has launched a crusade to fight *jueteng*.

"Now there is a long list of casinos all over the country. Worse, Pagcor insists on putting up more casinos even when the communities concerned vehemently protest their presence as infamous gathering places of shadowy characters."

"The government needs more money, and consequently has an ever-growing budget. Are its officials so bereft of sound ideas (on) how to generate funds except through legalized gambling?" he asked.

He rebuked the government for papering over the fact that casinos do not generate wealth for the country "but merely suck up the money in the hands of the gamblers and transfer these to the pockets of others."

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LPP GA RESOLUTION NO. 2003-11

RESPECTFULLY APPEALING TO HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO TO RECOGNIZE THE DISCRETION OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS TO IMPOSE PREVENTIVE SUSPENSION ON ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF COMPONENT CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES PURSUANT TO THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Whereas, the *League of Provinces of the Philippines* (LPP) recognizes the efforts of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to uphold and strengthen local autonomy towards building a Strong Republic;

Whereas, the *1987 Constitution* provides that the president shall exercise mere general supervision and not control over local government units (LGUs);

Whereas, the *Local Government Code of 1991* states that provincial governor has the authority to impose preventive suspension on elective officials of a component city or municipality;

Whereas, the reversal by the Office of the President of the preventive suspension order issued by Governor Tomas Joson against a mayor who is under investigation for gross misconduct and other presidential orders setting aside several preventive suspension orders issued by local chief executives, appears to weaken local autonomy and the disciplinary powers of provincial governors;

Therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the *League of Provinces of the Philippines* (LPP) respectfully appeals to Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to consider the following:

1.) To give greater weight and recognition to the power and discretion of provincial governors to impose preventive suspension orders on elective officials of component cities or municipalities as provided in section 63 (2) of the *Local Government Code of 1991;*

2.) Should the President deemed it necessary to inquire into the preventive suspension orders issued by provincial governors, the said inquiry should comply with administrative due process including, *inter alia*, the requirement of giving notice and conducting a hearing for the purpose to the concerned appellee; and

3.) That any inquiry on preventive suspension orders issued by provincial governors take full cognizance of the provisions of the 1987 Constitution, specifically Article II, Section 25, which guarantees that LGUs shall enjoy local autonomy, and Article X, Section 4, providing for the power of the President to exercise general supervision but not control over local governments, and recognizing the prerogatives of provinces over their respective component cities and municipalities;

Resolved further that the League urges her Excellency to forthwith instruct the Executive Secretary, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, and other concerned officials to comply with the above-mentioned recommendations;

Resolved finally, that copies of this resolution be furnished to Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, DILG Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr. and Gov. Tomas N. Joson III.

Done this 28th of August 2003, Mandaluyong City.

Certified true and correct,

JOSEFINA M. DELA CRUZ
Secretary-General

Attested by:

RODOLFO P. DEL ROSARIO
National President

Strengthening Local Autonomy through local development and decentralization

Manila to host manning confab

THE WORLD'S shipping leaders will converge in Manila from Nov. 24 to 26 for the 5th LSM (Lloyd's Ship Manager) Asia-Pacific Manning and Training Conference scheduled at the Westin Philippine Plaza,

The conference will examine how the Philippines, amid tougher competition and growing security concerns, is working to keep its status as the manning capital of the world.

"This important conference will tackle future challenges and opportunities regarding new security legislation and developments in crew rates and conditions," Nigel Kitchen, Lloyd's Ship Manager editor, said.

Challenges

A report on how the Philippine crewing industry is responding to these challenges will be presented by Doris Magsaysay Ho, chair and CEO of Magsaysay Maritime Corp. and chair of the Philippine Seafarers Promotion Council.

"The Philippines has developed numerous initiatives aimed at improving standards of seafarer's education, preserving the integrity of its licensing procedures and maintaining the cost advantages of Philippine crew," Ho said.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas will discuss the steps taken by the government to improve the international competitiveness of Filipino seafarers.

Security

Visa and security issues and their effect on the manning industry will be tackled by Capt. Gregorio S. Oca, president of the Associated Marine Officers' & Seamen's Union of the Philippines (Amosup).

Other speakers include Nobuo Kayahara, chairman, Joint Negotiating Group, International Mariners Management Association of Japan; Alex Sun, senior representative, The Coordination Council for Overseas Seamen Employment of China; David Dearsley, secretary general, IMEC; Chris Horrocks, secretary general, International Shipping Federation; Steve Cotton, secretary of the Special Seafarers Department, ITF.

Workshops

Two post-conference workshops covering "Crew Contracts and Crew Claims" and "Implications of Crew Visas and Security" are slated on Nov. 27.

For details, contact Lorraine Ward at telephone 44(0)20 70175511, fax 44(0)20 or e-mail: www.lloydslistevents.com/lm1485. Philippine participants shall be accorded special rates.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (TORTS AND DAMAGES)—Liability of employer—The premise, however, for the employer's liability is negligence or fault on the part of the employee. Once such fault is established, the employer can then be made liable on the basis of the presumption juris tantum that the employer failed to exercise diligentissimi patris families in the selection and supervision of its employees. The liability is primary and can only be negated by showing due diligence in the selection and supervision of the employee, a factual matter that has not been shown. Absent such a showing, one might ask further, how then must the liability of the common carrier, on the one hand, and an independent contractor, on the other hand, be described? It would be solidary. A contractual obligation can be breached by tort and when the same act or omission causes the injury, one resulting in culpa contractual and the other in culpa aquiliana, Article 2194 of the Civil Code can well apply. In fine, a liability for tort may arise even under a contract, where tort is that which breaches the contract. Stated differently, when an act which constitutes a breach of contract would have itself constituted the source of a quasi-delictual liability had no contract existed between the parties, the contract can be said to have been breached by tort, thereby allowing the rules on tort to apply. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, First Division, Light Rail Transit Authority v. Navidad, G.R. No. 145804, February 6, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

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Dual citizens can't vote in '04, say Abalos, lawyer

By Martin P. Marfil

FORMER Filipino citizens who have reacquired their citizenships under the Dual Citizenship Law cannot vote in the May 10, 2004 elections.

This was the opinion of both Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos and election lawyer Romulo Macalintal.

Both men pointed out that since the Dual Citizenship Law took effect only on Sept. 17, 2003, those who reacquired Filipino citizenship from that date would not be in compliance with the one-year residency requirement before the scheduled polls, which is less than eight months away.

"When a person takes his oath of allegiance (to another country), he loses his domicile," Abalos explained in a radio interview. "Registration for overseas absentee voting continues, but citizens of host countries will have to fulfill the constitutional requirement."

Macalintal said this position was backed by a Supreme Court ruling that said a natural-born Filipino who becomes a citizen of another country loses his citizenship and, with it, residency in the Philippines.

The High Court decision was issued on July 31, 2002 after a former Filipino who returned from abroad on Oct. 15, 1998 filed a petition to reacquire his citizenship on Nov. 10, 2000. The balikbayan ran for mayor of Oras town in Samar in the May 14, 2001 elections, claiming he had resided in the place since his return.

In its decision, the SC ruled that the *balikbayan* had been a resident for only six months—or since he filed his petition—and not two years as he claimed.

Macalintal said this ruling effectively barred those who reacquired Filipino citizenship under the Dual Citizenship Law from voting on May 10, 2004.

"While the law provides that these repatriated Filipinos may exercise their right to suffrage, (they are) subject to the requirements of the Constitution," he said. "To be a qualified voter, a Filipino must be a resident of the Philippines for at least one year immediately preceding the election."

Convict freed, hailed as 'environment hero'

By Volt Contreras

FROM CONVICT to hero.

After 13 years in prison, a forest guard convicted of murdering an Agusan del Sur town mayor is free and being hailed as a "hero for the environment."

The Supreme Court last Tuesday acquitted Raul Zapatos in the shooting death of Baguyan Mayor Leonardo Cortez during a gunfight at a DENR checkpoint.

The court also cleared Zapatos of frustrated murder in the wounding of one of the mayor's bodyguards, Socrates Platero.

Past and present officials of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources celebrated Zapatos' release from prison Friday night.

Secretary Elisea Gozun herself went to the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City to pick up Zapatos, according to a department statement.

Gozun said the rest of the DENR work force should draw inspiration from Zapatos' story of "staking his life for the protection of the environment."

The DENR had claimed the mayor's group was involved in illegal logging.

Zapatos testified that he was acting in self defense when he fired a rifle at Cortez and his bodyguards, who had fired first on the team manning a DENR Strike Force checkpoint.

The shooting took place on Jan. 14, 1990.

Court records showed Zapatos, who is part of the team, was asleep when Cortez and his men fired on the checkpoint.

Roused, Zapatos grabbed a colleague's M-16 rifle and fired back, killing Cortez and wounding Platero.

"Petitioner (Zapatos) was justified in firing back. His act is in accordance with man's natural instinct to save his life from impending danger. We cannot expect him to simply retreat or wait for a bullet to hit and kill him," the SC decision read.

Zapatos surrendered to authorities the day after the shooting. He was detained throughout his trial in the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division, which on March 27, 2001, sentenced him to life in prison.

Tourist village opens in Pampanga

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism has transformed the former Paskuhan Village in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga into a historical, cultural and tourism theme park dubbed as "Hilaga."

Secretary Richard Gordon said Hilaga will not only showcase the best of northern Philippines, it will bring economic opportunities to residents of the local area.

Each region of the North will showcase its tourism-related activities, such as festivals, street performances, cultural and historical presentations, and trade expositions, with emphasis on their indigenous personalities at the park.

Among the festivals presented during Hilaga's opening last week were the Pista'y Dayat and Bangus Festival of Pangasinan; Pnagbenga and Gotad Ad Ifugao of Cordillera, and the famous Sinukwan, Tanduyong, Malatarlak, Ilongot and Suman Festivals of Central Luzon.

Four exhibit halls have been allocated for each region's display of their regional heritage, history and cultural traditions, including demonstrations of their native arts and crafts.

Also opened was a one-stop shop for agricultural products, processed meat and other produce from the different regions.

The new tourism village is located at the crossroads of two big shopping malls in the City of San Fernando. Entrance is free.

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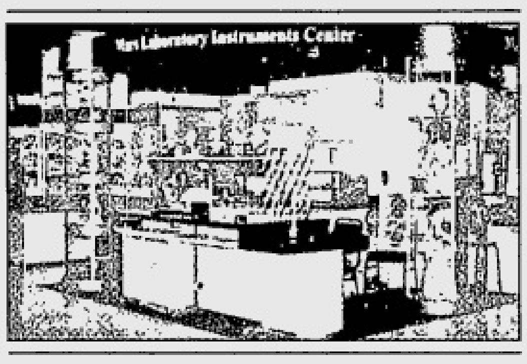

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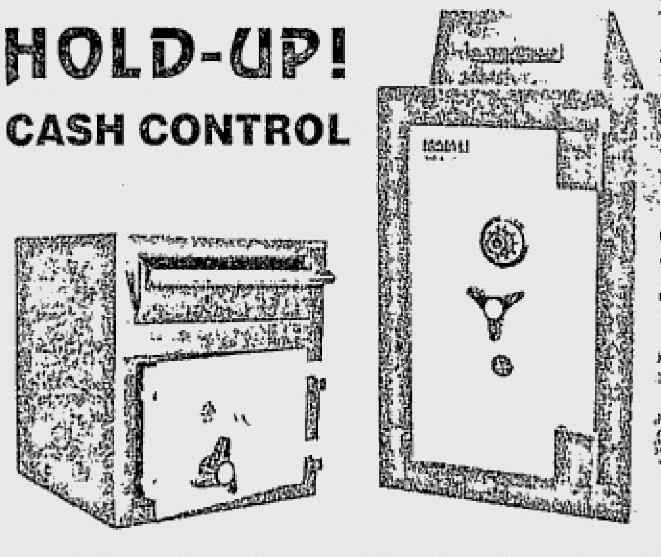

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PCGG sees Danding losing control of SMC

AFTER the United Coconut Planters Bank, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco may lose control of San Miguel Corp.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government has expressed confidence that the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court would award it disputed shares in San Miguel in a move which would remove control from Cojuangco, currently the chair and chief executive of the food and beverage conglomerate.

The PCGG, whose job is to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies, is locked in a court battle with Cojuangco involving two blocs of shares in San Miguel which it says were brought using levies imposed by deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos on coconut farmers.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said the commission was expecting the Sandiganbayan to issue a ruling on the dispute before the end of the year.

"We expect a ruling in civil case 33-F… in the next few months, I hope. 33-F involves ownership of San Miguel Corp.," Carranza told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines at a forum yesterday.

"We are confident that the Sandiganbayan will rule not only with respect to that 27 percent that is directly registered [using the] coconut levy, but even as to the 20 percent Mr. Cojuangco had registered in his own name," he said.

Carranza said the Sandiganbayan in July had stripped Cojuangco of control of the UCPB, which it said was illegally acquired using coco levy funds. The anti-graft court also forfeited his shareholdings in the bank in favor of the government.

The coco levy funds were collected from coconut farmers as a forced tax through a Marcos decree between 1973 and 1982. Marcos appointed Cojuangco as the administrator of the funds.

The Sandiganbayan decision effectively puts into jeopardy Cojuangco's management control of San Miguel, since UCPB is the administrator of some 27 percent in the beer-based conglomerate.

Apart from the 27-percent bloc, Cojuangco had also allegedly used coco levy funds to purchase 20 percent of San Miguel under his own name, Carranza said.

The government has filed eight civil cases against Cojuangco involving alleged misuse of the coconut levy funds worth an estimated "P150 billion in ill-gotten wealth, the largest part of which of course is the San Miguel shares of stock," he said.

Cojuangco has vowed to fight off government moves to gain control of San Miguel. He said the new actions against San Miguel might be connected to his earlier pronouncements he might seek the presidency in next year's national elections.

"A Cojuangco candidacy should have no legal implications, no legal consequence on the litigation . . . (but) a Cojuangco presidency is another story altogether," Carranza conceded.

"We are the Presidential Commission on Good Government. Can you imagine a PCGG headed by the very person the PCGG is going after?" he said. *AFP*

Gov't eyes higher stake in San Miguel

THE GOVERNMENT has told San Miguel Corp. to allow the state an additional five percent stake in Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, a senior official said on Monday.

In 1986, the government of then President Corazon Aquino sequestered a 27 percent stake in San Miguel under CIIF Holding Companies, a private fund, on suspicion the shares were illegally acquired during the rule of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Ruben Carranza, commissioner of the agency formed to track down the Marcos assets, said the government sent a letter to San Miguel demanding it turn over 25.45 million shares to raise the equity held by CIIF to 32 percent.

An analyst at a local stock brokerage estimated the five percent stake was worth more than P1.53 billion ($27.82 million) at current market prices.

San Miguel rules its home markets in the Philippines for beer, liquor, poultry and processed food. It runs breweries in China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia and Australia.

On Monday, San Miguel's A-shares, restricted to Filipinos, rose 50 centavos to P54.50. Its B-shares, which are open to foreigners, ended unchanged at P63.

The Supreme Court decided in 2001 that San Miguel must turn over an additional five percent stake to the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

"We already wrote to the corporate secretary, attorney Francis Jardeleza. If he respects the Supreme Court, all he has to do is start the process," Carranza told a briefing for foreign reporters.

San Miguel President Ramon Ang declined to comment and said company lawyers were studying the government's demand.

"We're still checking on it," Ang told Reuters.

Farmers claimed that the funds used to acquire the San Miguel shares in question were taken from a levy collected from them under the order of Marcos.

The government, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government, has voting rights on the 27 percent stake held by CIIF. Carranza said the original stake was 32 percent.

The balance of five percent represents 15.3 million San Miguel A-shares, 10.2 million B-shares and dividends that have accrued on the disputed stake.

Carranza did not say why the government asked San Miguel to implement the court order now.

"By February 2004, we will have more shares to vote than what we presently have because the Supreme Court decision has to be implemented," he said.

The government controls seven of the 15 seats on San Miguel's board. Of the seven, five are nominees of the presidential commission through the shares held by CIIF and there is one each from two state pension funds—the Government Services Insurance System and the Social Security System.

A group led by San Miguel's Chief Executive Officer Eduardo Cojuangco, a close associate of Marcos, controls eight seats, including two representing shares held by Kirin Brewery Co Ltd.

Kirin, Japan's second-largest brewer, bought a 15 percent stake in San Miguel in late 2001.

After the Kirin deal, San Miguel officials said Cojuangco owned 19.3 percent in the firm and the state pension funds a combined 11.8 percent, with the rest held by the public.

Carranza said he did not know whether the government's demand to be given the additional five percent stake would affect the shares sold to Kirin. *Reuters*

Gov't forces gird for SC ruling on Kuratong

From page A1

proceed with Criminal Cases Nos. 01-101101 to 01-101112 with deliberate dispatch."

Lacson has sought the tribunals' reconsideration.

Privilege speeches

Malacañang has accused Lacson of delivering privilege speeches accusing First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of laundering millions of pesos in campaign contributions to his wife to delay the Supreme Court's handing down of its decision.

The Palace said Lacson would be arrested should the Supreme Court hand down the decision.

Datumanong said that whatever the Supreme Court's decision on the (motion for reconsideration), the law enforcement agencies would make sure to do their part.

"In case anything like that comes out we are ready because that's our mandate. We are not insinuating anything. We are simply saying we assess our capability to be ready to enforce laws, to apply the rule of law to anyone," he said.

Datumanong said that the meeting was routine. "To assess our capability we meet once in a while to assess our capability and what we are supposed to do so the Filipino people will find us always ready to serve them," he said.

Meeting

Before the meeting at the NBI, which lasted two hours, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the Kuratong Baleleng case was among the topics expected to be discussed. He declined to elaborate.

He said that those expected at the meeting, aside from Datumanong and Wycoco, were Chief Supt. Galang (PNP chief Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane's proxy), Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, lawyer Arno Sanidad, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, former military intelligence chief Victor Corpus, NBI Assistant Director Lolito Utitco, lawyer Efren Moncupa and other NBI officials.

Sanidad and Moncupa were among the private prosecutors in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

14 killed, 31 hurt . . .

From page A1

Roel Tabangcura of San Vicente, Gattaran town; Henry Aggasi, driver of the Cabulisan bus; Bernardo Sadama, conductor; and passengers Katrina Romero and Eric Ricafuente. They died on the spot.

Police said the seven others who died later in, or on the way to, hospitals had not been identified.

The injured passengers were taken to various hospitals in this city and nearby Alcala town.

An initial police report said the Florida Bus, which had come from Vigan City in Ilocos Sur, overtook the two vans and hit the oncoming Cabulisan Bus.

The collision's impact sent the Florida Bus and one of the vans hurtling down a three-meter-deep ravine along the road shoulder.

Lacerna's team, policemen, and villagers struggled for about 10 hours pulling out the victims from the wreckage at the ravine's muddy bottom.

Senior Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, Cagayan police director, said the rescue and retrieval operations were completed at dawn on Monday.

Accidents along highways in the country's far-flung areas are frequent because commuter buses are old and poorly maintained, and dangerously narrow roads often lack safety signs or guard rails. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, with reports from AP and Agence France Presse*

GMA poll plan 'in God's hands'

From page A1

gal, whose government faced down a mutiny by renegade troops in July, must make a decision soon.

"The flurry of corruption exposés and of coup plot reports—which are interrelated themes—in the media is driven by the poisonous political climate in the run-up to the May elections," Amando Doronila wrote in the INQUIRER Monday.

Audience with Pope

"To clear up the destabilizing uncertainties over coup plots, it is terribly important that Ms Macapagal declare in categorical terms whether she will run in 2004." Speculation is rising that Ms Macapagal, who leaves tomorrow night on a five-day trip to the United States and Europe, will announce her candidacy after she shall have been praised by US President George W. Bush during his eight-hour visit to Manila on Oct. 18 before the two leaders attend an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Thailand.

An audience with Pope John Paul II during a trip to Europe later this month and a Lakas-CMD leadership summit on Oct. 7 are other factors bolstering speculation that Ms Macapagal will change her mind about the election next year.

"All indications show that the President is running," Vice President Teofisto Guingona said in radio interviews on Monday.

Guingona, a member of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslims Democrat (CMD) coalition, said he has been urging the President to make a decision as soon as possible.

In May, Bush called Ms Macapagal a strong partner in the US-led fight against terror.

Ms Macapagal supported Washington's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

American soldiers regularly train and advise Filipino troops fighting several groups of Muslim militants, including Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to the Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

She moved up from vice president in January 2001 when then President Joseph Estrada was ousted in a popular revolt.

The presidential spokesperson said it was an "open secret" that Ms Macapagal was besieged by appeals from various sectors to "make herself available for 2004" despite her declaration nine months ago that she would not stand for election next year.

National interest

Bunye said that leaders of the ruling party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats were "very insistent that the President reconsider her decision" and that "many other well-meaning leaders and members of the business sector are making the same suggestions."

"According to [former] President [Fidel] Ramos and other respected officials and members of the business community, the President should not close the door," Bunye said.

In making her final decision, the President would consider national interest, the presidential spokesperson said.

"There is no shame in changing her mind," Lakas Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Bukidnon) said.

Another administration lawmaker, Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr. (Negros Occidental), said a resolution calling on Ms Macapagal to accept the draft had started circulating in time for the Lakas national directorate meeting on Oct. 7.

A few days ago, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. announced the holding of the Oct. 7 national directorate meeting, noting that Ms Macapagal is the "overwhelming" choice of party leaders.

Asked over the government station Radyo ng Bayan if a decision would be forthcoming in the next few weeks, Bunye said: "Let us leave this to the President and let us pray for her and let's hope that she gets the guidance that she needs and let's pray for our country."

Bunye repeated his statement at a press briefing in the afternoon.

"Let's hope that the President decides and as soon as she does that, I'm sure she'll let us know," he said.

Just wait

Asked what more the President needed to reach a decision, Bunye replied: "We respect the prerogative of the President to think things over and we respect her decision to form whatever decision she would be making. But I'm sure the President is seriously thinking about all these suggestions. Let's just wait for the President to decide."

She and the embattled First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo are set to seek Pope John Paul II's blessings in Rome. Asked if the President's audience with the Pope in Rome would help the President reach a decision, Bunye said the President had always sought divine guidance for all her important decisions.

In the House of Representatives, Lozada said a number of Lakas members had asked if he himself had signed the resolution urging Ms Macapagal to reconsider her Dec. 30 announcement that she was no longer interested in seeking a full six-year term in next year's elections.

Lozada and Zubiri have yet to see a draft of the supposed Lakas resolution. A few months ago, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (NP, Iloilo City) circulated a resolution urging the President to run. At least 80 congressmen signed the resolution.

Zubiri said the administration-led People Power Coalition must "consolidate to ensure an administration victory."

He expressed fears that Ms Macapagal's chances of winning would be affected if candidates identified with the PPC pursued their own candidacies.

He was particularly referring to former Sen. Raul Roco of Aksyon Demokratiko. *With reports from Reuters, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Carlito Pablo*

Senate tells House: No way

From page A1

elections to allow for the election of a transition President next year and a shift to a parliamentary system in 2007.

But the House of Representatives wants the Constitution amended through a constituent assembly made up of members of Congress while the Senate prefers a constitutional convention of delegates elected in 2004.

"We have our own mind in the Senate, and just as we do not interfere with the House and the other branches of government, we also expect our independence to be respected," Drilon said.

He reiterated that amending the Constitution through a constituent assembly was no longer tenable because of "time constraints."

Sen. Joker Arroyo urged congressmen to forget their bid to amend the Charter because the Senate and House were "worlds apart" when it came to the mode of amending the Charter.

"I think we might as well forget this plan to amend the Constitution because it is statistically improbable. I don't think it will ever take off," Arroyo said at a news conference.

He said any resolution seeking to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly would need three-fourths of the members of the Senate for it to be adopted.

"That means that the proponents must have 18 votes in the Senate," Arroyo said. "Since the Senate has 22 members at present, only five senators are needed to block an amendment."

"Going by the mood of the Senate," there were more than five senators who would block any amendment at this time, he said.

Palace influence

Opposition Sen. John Osmeña said Malacañang could use its awesome resources to influence the Senate into supporting Charter change despite the doctrine of separation of powers.

"Malacañang holds the key to the approval of the measure to amend the Constitution," Osmeña said.

"Even if the opposition [senators] were to support, there are five senators in the majority who are known to oppose amendments. Only if Malacañang can persuade those five does approving the resolution to call for amendments stand a chance," he said.

Quoting Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Drilon said the matter of constitutional change "will be decided in the Senate and in Congress," not by Malacañang.

He assured members of the Lower House that the Senate had already made up its mind on the issue.

"A resolution was signed on Jan. by 14 senators preferring the constitutional convention as the mode of amending the Constitution. And I'm not informed of anyone who has changed his or her position," said Drilon.

He said the report of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments pushing for the constitutional convention had the support of almost all of the committee members.

"Unless somebody gives in, there is no amendment possible," he said. "But I don't see the senators changing their minds ... on the mode of amending the Constitution."

Opposition Sen. Serge Osmeña said he was still for a convention in amending the Charter, and so were 13 other senators.

He said Congress had run out of time to amend the Charter via a constituent assembly because it was impossible for lawmakers to "study, discuss and debate" Charter change proposals in one or two months.

He added that lawmakers were expected to be busy during the latter part of the year discussing the proposed 2004 national budget.

Lame duck

Should the Constitution be amended, whoever gets elected transition President would be a "lame duck" and his administration a source of instability, according to Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.

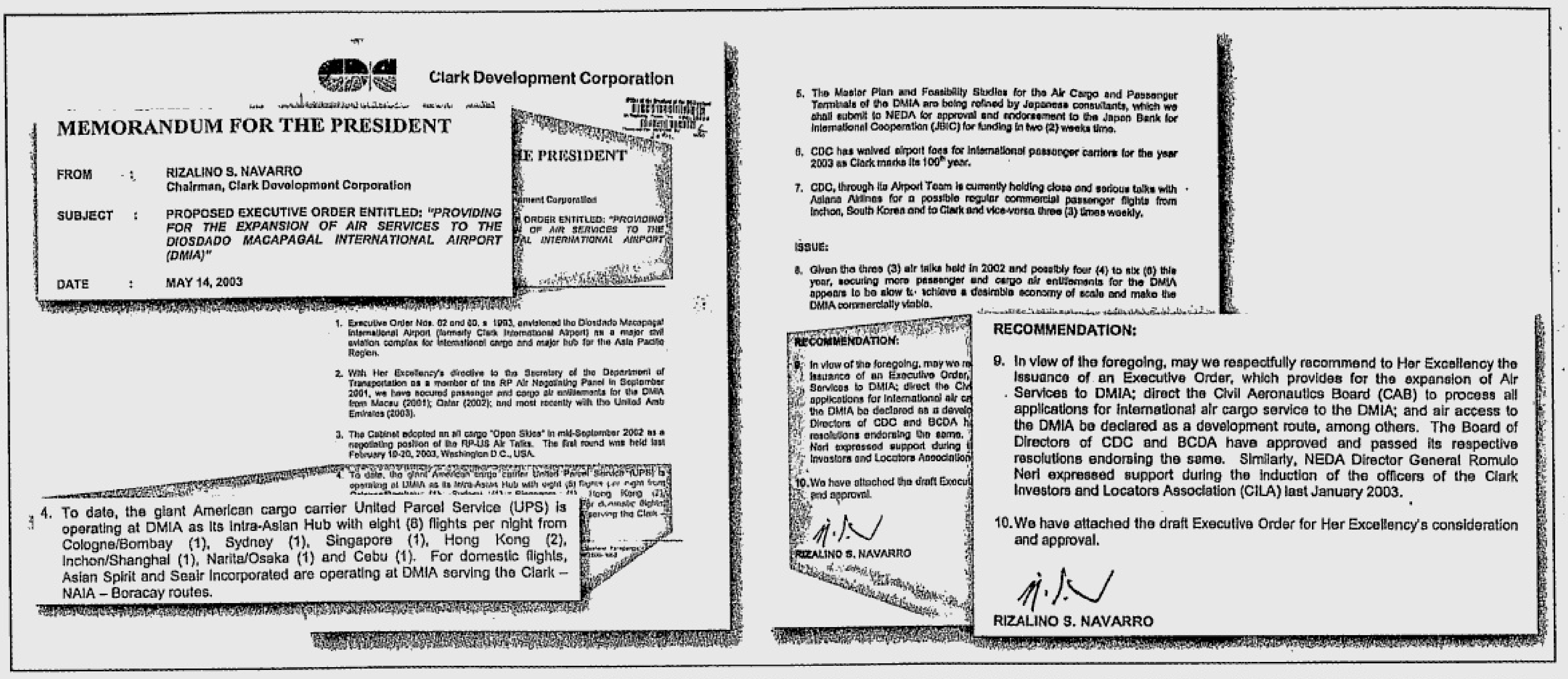
"The transition President would not exercise the real political power and would be a mere symbol or décor because the Parliament and the parties would become the new centers of political activity," Guingona said at the weekly Kapihan sa Maynila media forum in the Manila Hotel.

Norberto Gozales, presidential adviser on special concerns, has suggested that Ms Macapagal is the ideal choice for a transition President.

The Partido ng Manggagawa also rejected the proposal for a transition president, saying it would serve the vested interests of the present crop of traditional politicians.

PM Rep. Renato Magtubo said the labor movement would agree to the proposal if a "popular version of a transition government" was put up to pave the way for a shift from "elite rule to direct democracy by the masses. *With reports from Jerome Aning and Martin P Marfil*

Please, Madame President, Do Not Sign the Open skies E.O.



Clark Development Corporation

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM : RIZALINO S. NAVARRO
Chairman, Clark Development Corporation

SUBJECT : PROPOSED EXECUTIVE ORDER ENTITLED: *"PROVIDING FOR THE EXPANSION OF AIR SERVICES TO THE DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DMIA)"*

DATE : MAY 14, 2003

1. Executive Order Nos. 62 and 80, s. 1993, envisioned the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (formerly Clark International Airport) as a major civil aviation complex for international cargo and major hub for the Asia Pacific Region.
2. With Her Excellency's directive to the Secretary of the Department of Transportation as a member of the RP Air Negotiating Panel in September 2001, we have secured passenger and cargo air entitlements for the DMIA from Macau (2001); Qatar (2002); and most recently with the United Arab Emirates (2003).
3. The Cabinet adopted an all cargo "Open Skies" in mid-September 2002 as a negotiating position of the RP-US Air Talks. The first round was held last February 18-20, 2003, Washington D.C., USA.
4. To date, the giant American cargo carrier United Parcel Service (UPS) is operating at DMIA as its Intra-Asian Hub with eight (8) flights per night from Cologne/Bombay (1), Sydney (1), Singapore (1), Hong Kong (2), Inchon/Shanghai (1), Narita/Osaka (1) and Cebu (1). For domestic flights, Asian Spirit and Seair Incorporated are operating at DMIA serving the Clark – NAIA – Boracay routes.
5. The Master Plan and Feasibility Studies for the Air Cargo and Passenger Terminals of the DMIA are being refined by Japanese consultants, which we shall submit to NEDA for approval and endorsement to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for funding in two (2) weeks time.
6. CDC has waived airport fees for international passenger carriers for the year 2003 as Clark marks its 100th year.
7. CDC, through its Airport Team is currently holding close and serious talks with Asiana Airlines for a possible regular commercial passenger flights from Inchon, South Korea and to Clark and vice-versa three (3) times weekly.

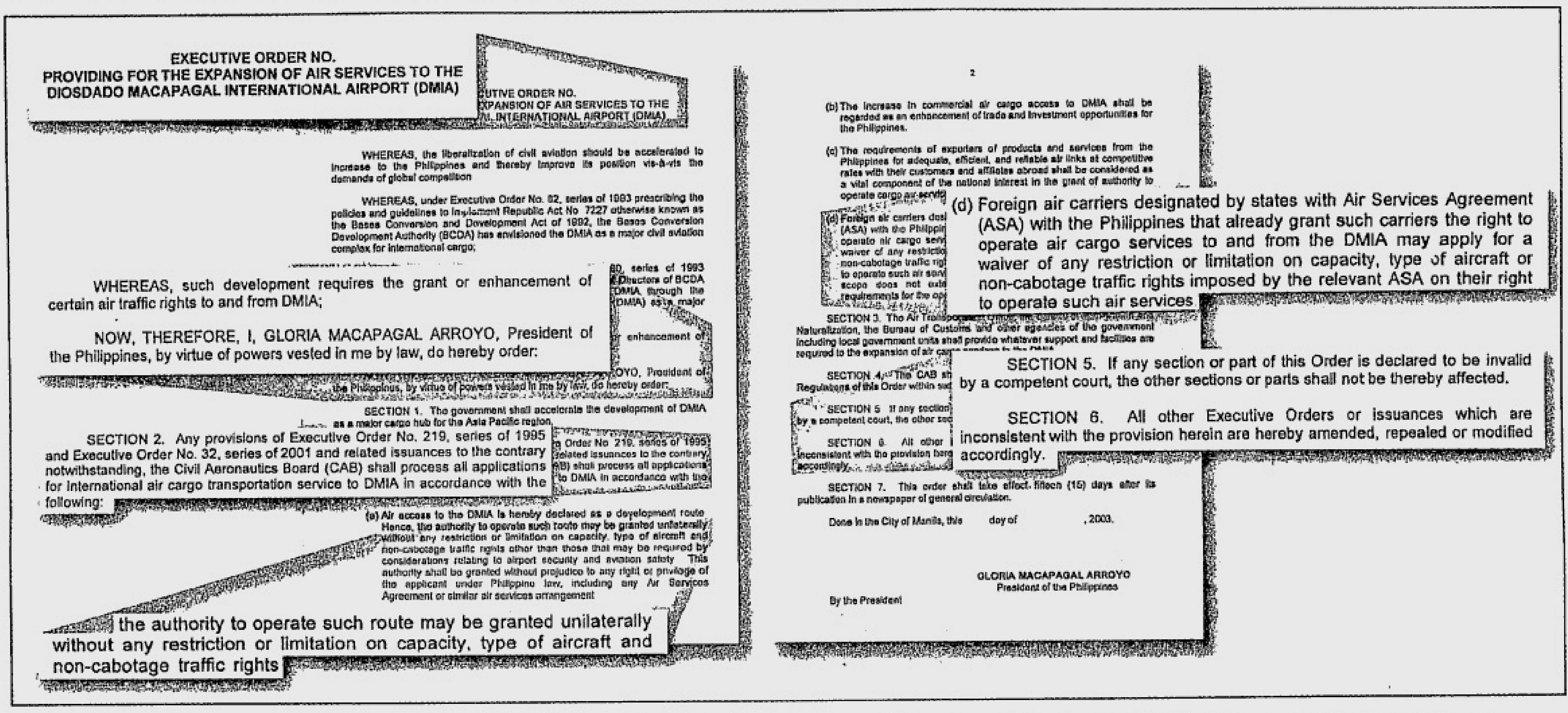
ISSUE:

8. Given the three (3) air talks held in 2002 and possibly four (4) to six (6) this year, securing more passenger and cargo air entitlements for the DMIA appears to be slow to achieve a desirable economy of scale and make the DMIA commercially viable.

RECOMMENDATION:

9. In view of the foregoing, may we respectfully recommend to Her Excellency the issuance of an Executive Order, which provides for the expansion of Air Services to DMIA; direct the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to process all applications for international air cargo service to the DMIA; and air access to the DMIA be declared as a development route, among others. The Board of Directors of CDC and BCDA have approved and passed its respective resolutions endorsing the same. Similarly, NEDA Director General Romulo Neri expressed support during the induction of the officers of the Clark Investors and Locators Association (CILA) last January 2003.
10. We have attached the draft Executive Order for Her Excellency's consideration and approval.

RIZALINO S. NAVARRO



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.
PROVIDING FOR THE EXPANSION OF AIR SERVICES TO THE DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DMIA)

WHEREAS, the liberalization of civil aviation should be accelerated to increase to the Philippines and thereby improve its position vis-à-vis the demands of global competition

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 62, series of 1993 prescribing the policies and guidelines to implement Republic Act No. 7227 otherwise known as the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992, the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) has envisioned the DMIA as a major civil aviation complex for international cargo;

WHEREAS, such development requires the grant or enhancement of certain air traffic rights to and from DMIA;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The government shall accelerate the development of DMIA as a major cargo hub for the Asia Pacific region.

SECTION 2. Any provisions of Executive Order No. 219, series of 1995 and Executive Order No. 32, series of 2001 and related issuances to the contrary notwithstanding, the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) shall process all applications for international air cargo transportation service to DMIA in accordance with the following:

(a) Air access to the DMIA is hereby declared as a development route. Hence, the authority to operate such route may be granted unilaterally without any restriction or limitation on capacity, type of aircraft and non-cabotage traffic rights other than those that may be required by considerations relating to airport security and aviation safety. This authority shall be granted without prejudice to any right or privilege of the applicant under Philippine law, including any Air Services Agreement or similar air services arrangement.

the authority to operate such route may be granted unilaterally without any restriction or limitation on capacity, type of aircraft and non-cabotage traffic rights

2

(b) The increase in commercial air cargo access to DMIA shall be regarded as an enhancement of trade and investment opportunities for the Philippines.

(c) The requirements of exporters of products and services from the Philippines for adequate, efficient, and reliable air links at competitive rates with their customers and affiliates abroad shall be considered as a vital component of the national interest in the grant of authority to operate cargo air servic

(d) Foreign air carriers designated by states with Air Services Agreement (ASA) with the Philippines that already grant such carriers the right to operate air cargo services to and from the DMIA may apply for a waiver of any restriction or limitation on capacity, type of aircraft or non-cabotage traffic rights imposed by the relevant ASA on their right to operate such air services

SECTION 3. The Air Transp Naturalization, the Bureau of Customs and other agencies of the government including local government units shall provide whatever support and facilities are required to the expansion of air ca

SECTION 4. The CAB sh Regulations of this Order within su

SECTION 5. If any section or part of this Order is declared to be invalid by a competent court, the other sections or parts shall not be thereby affected.

SECTION 6. All other Executive Orders or issuances which are inconsistent with the provision herein are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this day of , 2003.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President of the Philippines

By the President

President Arroyo and her team took the right move by defending the country's interest in the latest round of WTO negotiations in Cancun.

But we are angered when documents above show at least two government agencies are pushing the President to unilaterally grant foreigners the right to lord over our skies and the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA), by way of an executive order.

This proposed E.O. is a sick and contradictory idea because only last July 15, our government, through its official Air Negotiating Panel, stood path with its stand not to succumb to US demands that we totally open our skies, while they will not. We must note that the RP-US Air negotiations are yet to conclude a just and mutually beneficial air service agreement.

President Arroyo must not sign the industry-killer and patrimony-transgressor executive order.

Not only will it compromise the position of the RP panel in relation to the on-going RP-US talks, the E.O. if signed, readily hands-over to foreign interests the control of our land and northern international gateway. Worst, it makes "legitimate" the unconstitutional commercial basing and operations of US' cargo mega-carriers like FedEx and the UPS.

Must we remind these anti-Filipino proponents of the EO that such can never supercede, nor alter our Philippine Constitution that prohibits foreign control of our national patrimony? Must we again say that it is the Filipino people and its working class, which will suffer no end; ones our thriving local industries finally grumbles to the might and resources of giant foreign industries?

The courage shown and the respect earned by the Philippines in Cancun must not be squandered by such deceptive maneuvers of our unscrupulous competitors. We appeal to the President to abrogate the lopsided 1982 RP-US Air Transport Agreement. In so doing, once again, she clearly sends a meaningful message that she is putting premium weight to national interest, over foreign interest.

Open Skies,
An Infringement to Philippine Sovereignty!

ALL LABOR for FAIR SKIES (ALFS)

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National Chair
Kapatiran ng Kristiyanong
Organisayong Manggagawa Inc. (KKMI)

(Sgd.) Carlito Rallistan
National President
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(Sgd.) Atty. Antonio Policarpio
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(Sgd.) Frank Mero
National President
Automotive Industry Workers Alliance
(AIWA)

(Sgd.) Atty. Ernesto Arellano
National President
NFL-NCL

(Sgd.) Tony E. Brenches
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CLUP

(Sgd.) Angelito Mendoza
SEA Regional Coordinator
Asia-Pacific Workers Solidarity Links

(Sgd.) Florentino Cruz
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Lakas Manggagawa Labor Center

(Sgd.) Alex Barrientos
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(Sgd.) Ka Leto Villar
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Association of Ginuine
Labor Organization (AGLO)

(Sgd.) Ferdie Anicete
National President
Lakas at Gabay ng
Manggagawang Nagakakaisa
(Lagman Federation)

Nakikiisa sa Laban ng Pilipinong Manggagawa

(Sgd.) Robert Lim Joseph
President and Chairman
S.O.S. and National Association
of Independent Travel Agencies (NAITAS)

(Sgd.) Hon. Joel Badong
Municipal Councilor
Baao, Camarines Sur

(Sgd.) Eden Crisostomo
OIC
Paranaque Workers
Affairs Office (PWAO)

(Sgd.) Laureano Tolentino
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(Sgd.) Ruperto Bragado
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(Sgd.) Bayani Diwa
National Sec. Gen.
Unified Filipino Service Workers

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

2 killed in suicide car bomb attack near UN Iraq compound

BAGHDAD—A car bomb exploded Monday morning while the vehicle was trying to approach the UN compound, killing at least two people and injuring 11, police and witnesses said.

The blast occurred at the entrance to a parking lot next to the UN compound at the Canal Hotel, a UN employee said on condition of anonymity. The blast occurred about 150-200 meters from hotel, scene of a devastating car bombing last month that killed about 20 people, including the UN's top envoy in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

"It appeared to have been a suicide bombing. The bomber drove up and was engaged by an Iraqi security individual just before the checkpoint" at the lot entrance, a US 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment spokesperson, Capt. Sean Kirley, told reporters at the scene. That policeman was killed, although it was not clear whether he was shot or died in the explosion, he said.

Iraqi police Lt. Col. Thaer Ahmed said 11 other people, mostly policemen, were wounded. Kirley said he didn't know whether any US troops were near the scene at the time, but none was wounded. He said there was no damage to UN buildings and that police had a few minutes warning of a possible attack. He refused to elaborate.

United Nations staff have continued to work in undamaged offices at the hotel complex since the Aug. 19 bombing.

The blast, which could be heard over much of the Iraqi capital, took place two days before US President George W. Bush is expected to address the UN General Assembly and offer an expanded role in rebuilding Iraq, a condition set by many nations for contributing peacekeepers and money to the reconstruction effort.

Secretary General Kofi Annan has made clear he wants assurances of security for UN personnel in Baghdad along with any expanded role.

The United Nations curtailed its efforts in Iraq after the Aug. 19 bombing. At the time of the attack, UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard said there were about 300 international staff in Baghdad and more than 300 elsewhere in Iraq. These numbers are thought to have now been dramatically reduced.

An Iraqi workman who was slightly injured said he saw cars trying to enter the back parking lot when one of them exploded.

"It was as if I was being pushed and thrown three meters from where I was standing," the worker, Wissam Majid, said. "I saw fire and smoke. I started running away and then I lost consciousness."

After the bombing, about 20 US military vehicles could be seen swarming around the compound, and the area in northeastern Baghdad was sealed off by Iraqi police.

The bomb exploded two days after an assassination attempt against Aquila al-Hashimi, one of three women on the Iraqi Governing Council and a leading candidate to become Iraq's UN ambassador if the interim government wins approval to take the country's UN seat.

She was reported in serious but stable condition following the Saturday attack, which occurred as she was riding in a car near her home in western Baghdad. The Governing Council president, Ahmad Chalabi, blamed remnants of the regime of Saddam Hussein, whose government was toppled by US-led forces in April.

Since Bush declared an end to major combat operations on May 1, more than 160 American soldiers have been killed. More than 300 US soldiers have died in Iraq since the US-led coalition launched military operations March 20.

The ongoing violence has raised questions about American stewardship of the country and has led to calls for an expanded role for the United Nations in post-Saddam Iraq. *AP*

US soldiers secure the area of a suicide car bombing near UN headquarters (background) Sept. 22 in Baghdad. An Iraqi security guard and the bomber were killed and at least eight other people injured in the blast behind the Canal Hotel housing the UN offices, where 22 people, including the top UN envoy in Iraq, were killed in a massive bombing last month. AFP

Galileo mission ends with dive into Jupiter

WASHINGTON—Nasa's Galileo space probe made a controlled, fiery crash into Jupiter on Sunday, ending a 14-year mission that yielded dramatic discoveries about the largest planet and its moons.

The space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, received the final signal from the spacecraft at 3:43 p.m., the laboratory said in a statement.

"We learned mind-boggling thing. This mission was worth its weight in gold," said Galileo project manager Claudia Alexander.

More than 1,000 people who worked on the Galileo program gathered at the laboratory to celebrate the end of the mission.

Team member Rosaly Lopes described the farewell celebration as bittersweet. "It was very emotional. We had people coming here today who worked on Galileo many years ago. Some had retired. Some had left for other jobs and it was like a big family reunion," she said.

At the same time, it was like saying goodbye to an old friend, Lopes said in a telephone interview.

Galileo was low on propellant and six years past its original end date. Launched from space shuttle Atlantis in 1989, Galileo traveled about 4.6 billion km before it disintegrated in Jupiter's dense atmosphere on Sunday.

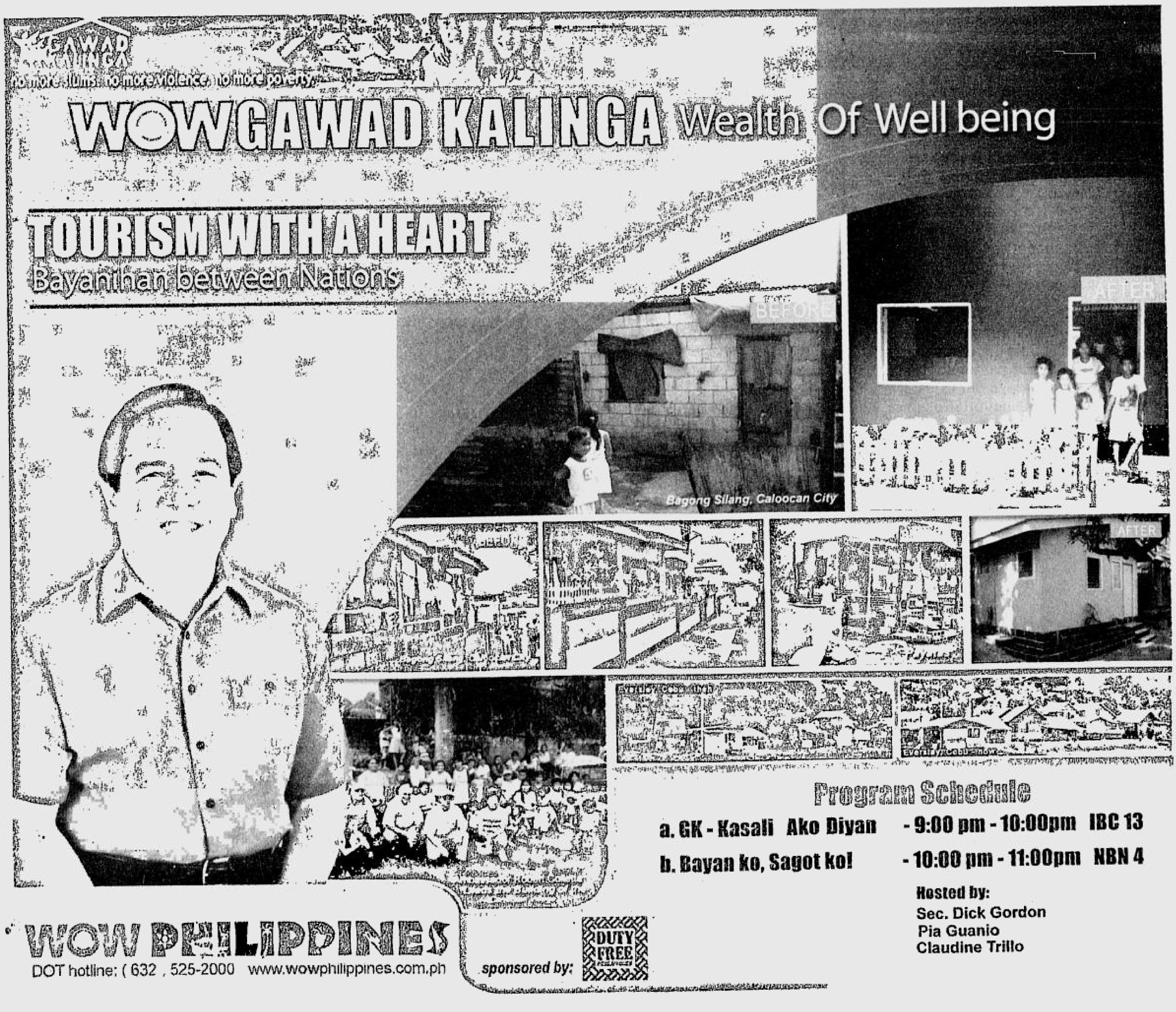
Galileo orbited Jupiter 34 times and obtained the first direct measurements of its atmosphere by sending a probe parachuting down toward the planet in 1995.

It detected evidence of underground salt water oceans beneath the icy crusts of Jupiter's moon Europa. Data also showed that the moons Ganymede and Callisto may have a liquid saltwater layer.

Lopes called the Europa finding a major highlight of the mission.

"We had never thought of Europa as a place that could possibly harbor life, so that was a really major discovery," she said.

The spacecraft was purposely put on a collision course with Jupiter. *Reuters*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Bayanihan between Nations
BEFORE
AFTER
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Program Schedule
a. GK - Kasali Ako Diyan - 9:00 pm - 10:00pm IBC 13
b. Bayan ko, Sagot ko! - 10:00 pm - 11:00pm NBN 4
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Annan: Too much for antiterror, too little for AIDS

NAIROBI—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's special envoy on Sunday blasted as a "grotesque obscenity" the money lavished on the US-led war on terror given the relative pittance spent on Africa's AIDS orphans and HIV-infected millions.

"Millions of children live traumatized, unstable lives, robbed not just of their parents, but of their childhoods and futures," Stephen Lewis, who is Annan's representative for AIDS in Africa, told the opening of a major conference here.

"How can this be happening, in the year 2003, when we can find over $200 billion to fight a war on terrorism, but we can't find the money to prevent children from living in terror? And when we can't find the money to provide the antiretroviral treatment for all of those who need such treatment in Africa?

"This double standard is the grotesque obscenity of the modern world."

Lewis did not mention the United States by name or give details for the $200-billion figure.

Earlier, the specialist UN agency UNAIDS said spending on the AIDS war in Africa was at last rising relatively fast, amounting to around $900-950 million for 2002.

"It's half of what we need to confront this epidemic in the continent, but it's already a doubling of what we had a few years ago," Michel Sidibe, a director at the UN's AIDS agency who is in charge of country and regional support.

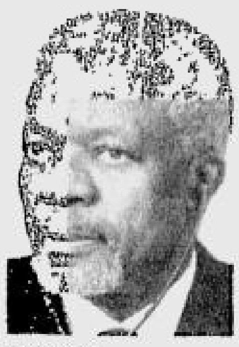
Sidibe said it was time to smash the myth that Africa was an unsalvageable basket case.

In addition to money inflows from the Global Fund and others, the price of drugs was falling and African governments were working to combat stigma and encourage HIV prevention, he said.

The six-day International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) is a forum held every two years that focuses on specifically African aspects of the pandemic.

Some 8,000 doctors, researchers, policymakers and grassroots campaigners were registered for the meeting.

Today, around 30 million Africans have AIDS or HIV, accounting for around three-quarters of the world's total. Some 15 million Africans have already died, and 11 million children have lost one or both parents to the disease.


ANNAN

From the Sahara to the Cape, one adult in 11 has the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) on average.

Yet, at the end of last year, only 50,000 people had access to antiretroviral therapy, the drug "cocktail" that has made HIV a manageable condition for millions of people in the West.

The good news is that the cost of antiretrovirals in developing countries has fallen dramatically, thanks to price cuts by big pharmaceutical companies. *AFP*

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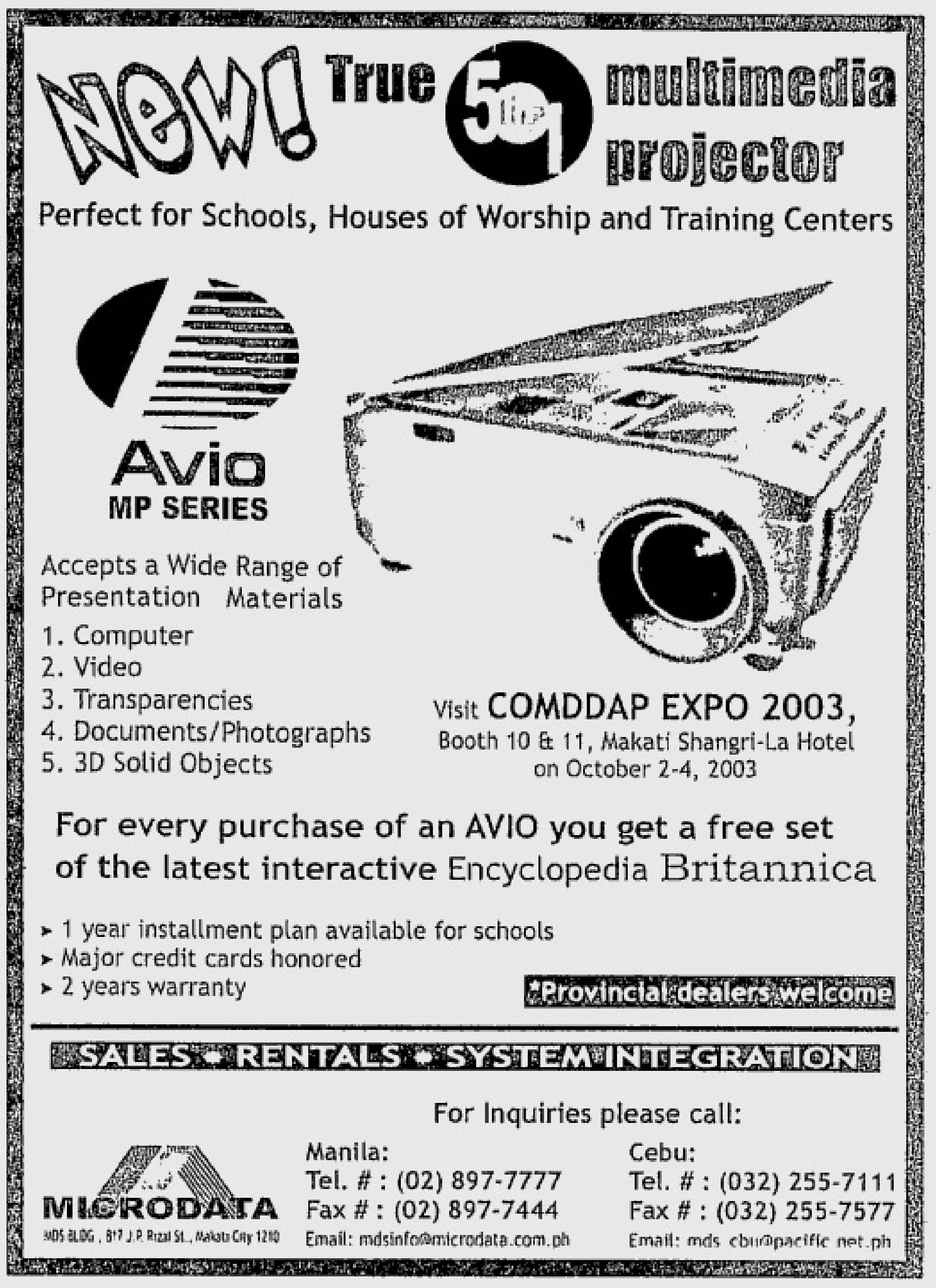
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Saudi affirms commitment to fight terror

THE KINGDOM of Saudi Arabia yesterday affirmed its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms.

In a statement issued on the eve of the Saudi National Day, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Manila said the kingdom is cooperating in the international community's efforts to combat terrorism.

It said the kingdom has expressed its readiness to participate in international efforts against terrorism under the umbrella of the United Nations.

"Terrorism has no home, no religion nor citizenship. The fight against terrorism exceeds the capability of a country or a society itself. Hence, it requires the collective efforts of the whole international community," the statement issued by Charge d'Affaires Fahad A.I. bin Bhkeet said.

Bkheet said Saudi Arabia was one of the first countries that endorsed the "recommendations of the 40" to the members of a finance working team in 1999. Preparations for an anti-money laundering project have been made to combat the financing of terrorism, he said.

WORLDBRIEFS

Koizumi keeps reformers

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi kept Heizo Takenaka as Japan's economic czar in a cabinet shake-up Monday hailed as a bolstering of the premier's reform agenda before an expected general election this year. The move kept unelected Takenaka as both chief financial system regulator and economic and fiscal policy minister, and ignored calls from within the ruling party to remove him. Koizumi also surprised commentators by retaining Yoriko Kawaguchi, 62, another unelected politician, as foreign minister, and elevating Sadakazu Tanigaki, 58, to the finance minister's post to replace the ailing Masajuro Shiokawa, 81. "I think this shows the prime minister's strong expectations with regard to structural reforms," Takenaka told a post-appointment news conference. "Japan's economic performance in the past three to four quarters has been the best among industrial nations. I want to take advantage of it and push for structural reform." Japan's economy grew an annualized 3.9 percent in the three months to June from the previous quarter, outstripping US growth in the same period. *AFP*

Canada's Martin shines

OTTAWA—Former finance minister Paul Martin on Sunday took a giant step toward becoming Canada's next prime minister when he easily won the race which will decide who becomes head of the ruling Liberal party, his aides said. Liberal party members voted this weekend to choose delegates to a convention in Toronto on Nov. 15 which will elect a new leader. Martin aides said that as of 9:45 p.m. he had the support of 3,491 delegates, well over half the 5,800 delegates he needed for victory. Heritage Minister Sheila Copps, the only other candidate, had just 231 delegates. This means that barring disaster, Martin will be elected leader of the party in November and will replace Jean Chretien when he retires as prime minister next February. *Reuters*

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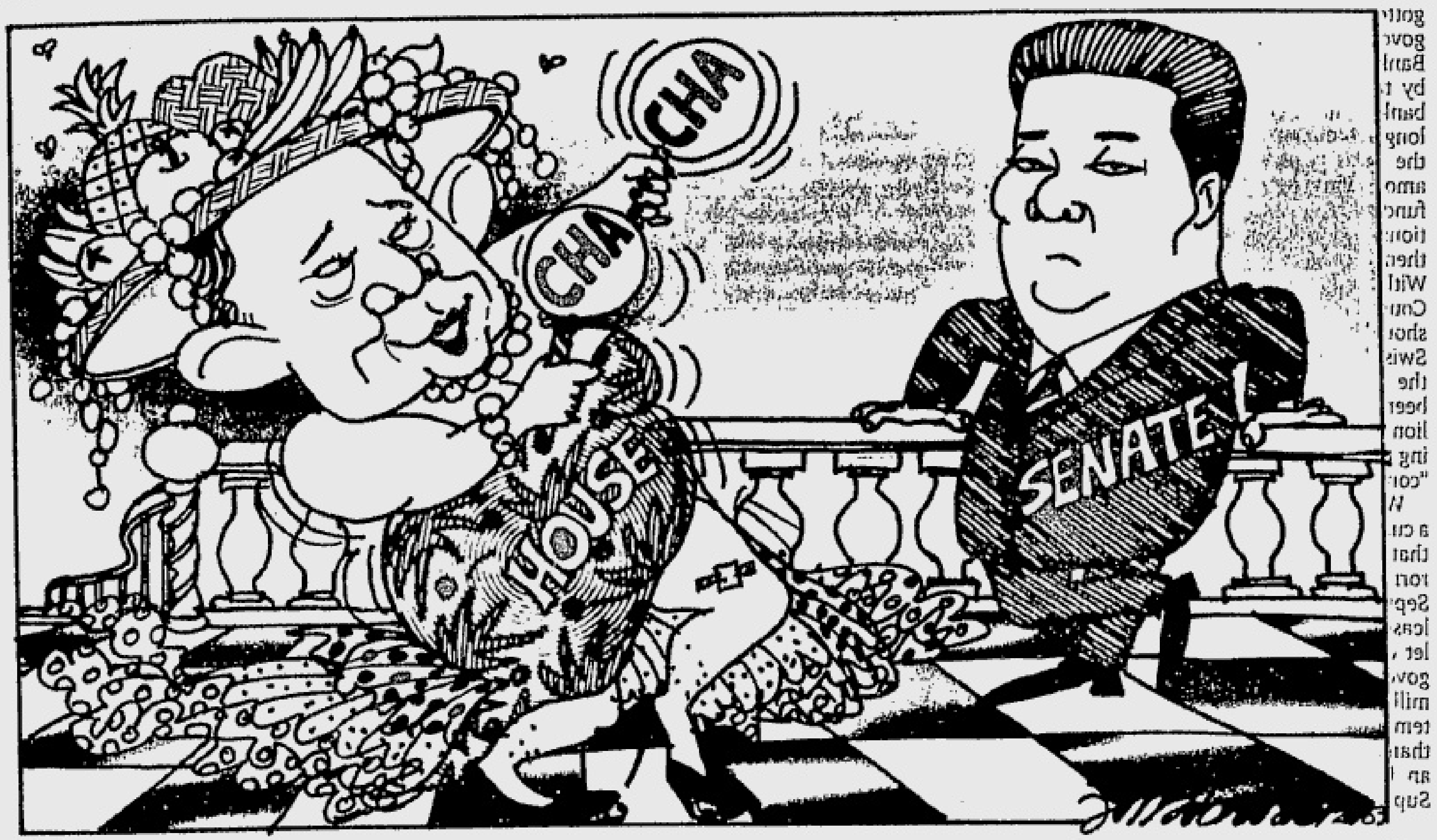


Collective amnesia

EDITORIAL

A SURVEY report released last week by Pulse Asia showed that 6 out of every 10 Filipinos would reject a resort to martial law to solve the problems bedeviling the country. The 62 percent result of the survey is nine points higher than the 53 percent recorded last April.

The astonishing thing to us is not that more people are now opposing martial law as a solution, but that a bigger percentage, say, 70 to 80 percent, have not expressed their opposition. One would expect a higher percentage of opposition from a nation that only three decades ago experienced the nightmare of martial law.

Is the Pulse Asia finding an indication that many people would rather suffer repression rather than political instability? Or probably they would rather forget the long nightmare? Or probably many are not aware of the evils that martial law inflicted upon the nation?

At a conference on the "legacies" of the Marcos dictatorship in 1999, participants expressed concern over the collective amnesia with regard to the martial law regime. They asked why the attempts at "de-Marcosification" which should have started in 1986 failed.

Panelists cited the lack of political will to determine the truth about the Marcoses. A participant mentioned the lack of political consciousness which, she said, could be attributed to lack of access to information. Another questioned the use of the word "legacies" in the title of the conference. He said that a legacy is something good, a gift given or left by one person to another. The effects produced by martial law have been anything but good, and indeed have been very bad for the country.

One of the most tangible "legacies" (if we must use the word) of the Marcos dictatorship is the massive economic plunder of the nation. The world-class "robbery," as it is described in the Guinness Book of World Records, is estimated to have siphoned off $5 billion to $10 billion from the national treasury. At the time of the Edsa Revolt $10 billion was equivalent to P220 billion. Think of all the things the government could have provided the people had the amount been put to public use.

But more than the economic plunder, the Marcos dictatorship seared the soul and weakened the moral fiber of the nation. Corruption became a normal way of life. People became inured to torture, human rights violations and the suppression of their rights and freedom.

At a conference in 1999, Prof. Alfred McCoy of the University of Wisconsin-Madison said that the military, which should be the people's protectors, became torturers and human rights violators during martial law. Marcos coddled the military that he needed to prop up his dictatorship, with the result that up to now it can blackmail any administration to grant its demands.

What are some of the other "legacies" of martial law?

—The suppression of the freedom of expression, including freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. Thankfully, these freedoms were restored in 1986.

—Widespread poverty resulting from the plunder of the economy by Marcos & Co. UP Prof. Fermin D. Adriano said economic growth during the dictatorship was a debt-driven growth that was unsustainable and primarily benefited Marcos, his relatives and cronies.

—The degradation of the nation's institutions, including Congress, the judiciary, the military and the police. Some, like the military and the police, are still trying to reform themselves.

—A culture of dishonesty, cheating and lies. Even military and historical records were altered to serve the purposes of the dictatorship. Adriano said one of the social costs of martial law and the collective amnesia about it is the Filipino's increasing inability to determine what is right and what is wrong. In turn, he said, this causes a decline of their values and their sense of ethics.

Fr. John J. Carroll, S.J., said that the Filipino people continue to be in "a state of denial" of the crimes of the Marcos dictatorship. Yes, there must be forgiveness and reconciliation, but forgiveness applies only "to those who acknowledge their offenses and ask pardon, not to those who arrogantly deny they have done any wrong," Carroll said.

No "official memory" of martial law has been established. There is no continuing process of "story-telling" to tell the younger generations about the evils of martial law. There has been no closure—no admission of guilt, no truth commission, no punishment, no forgiveness and reconciliation. We should never forget what happened during the dark night of the dictatorship. To paraphrase George Santayana, those who forget the lessons of martial law may be condemned to repeat them.

Budget switch?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

TRAFFIC now moves swiftly along the widened and newly concreted Commonwealth Avenue and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City. The "No Crossing" "No Left Turn" rules prevent vehicles from otherwise slowing down the speedy and smooth flow of traffic. However, they're good for drivers but bad for pedestrians who, when crossing the wide avenues, now risk being run over by speeding vehicles. Hypnotized by the swift traffic flow, drivers don't pay attention to pedestrian lanes. And there are no traffic lights nor humps to slow down vehicles before pedestrian lanes.

The Metro Manila Development Authority will remedy that by constructing a number of pedestrian overpasses across the two avenues; and, may I suggest, at least two across the Elliptical Road running around the Quezon Memorial Park.

But I hope the MMDA would come up with a design different from those of the present ugly, heavy, bulky concrete pedestrian overpasses we have all over Metro Manila. I'm sure we can do better than that. If necessary, hold a design contest with generous prizes to attract the best designs. Outside of Tokyo, sometime ago I saw across a very wide high-speed superhighway, an attractive pedestrian overpass with winding staircases made of steel. I am confident Filipinos can come up with similar designs.

What I don't understand is why there are still working traffic signals on the Elliptical Road. They are no longer necessary as all vehicles on it go one way, counterclockwise, and all vehicles entering and exiting turn right. Drivers pay no heed to the traffic lights anyway as they speed around the Circle. They only develop the habit of going through red lights.

On the other hand, intersections that badly need traffic lights have none. The very busy intersection of Commonwealth and Tandang Sora Avenues, beneath the flyover, has long needed several of them to make the drivers and commuters obey traffic rules. Why not transfer some of the traffic signals on the Elliptical Road to that intersection? They are just wearing away, blinking needlessly 24 hours a day for no purpose.

And why not put lights, benches and railings for commuters to fall in line in at the waiting sheds so that they don't have to spill out into the middle of street corners waiting for rides? It seems the MMDA is long on big plans but short on details.

* * *

I also do not understand why the MMDA is trying to block the completion of Congressional Avenue when it will greatly ease traffic on Commonwealth Avenue. Congressional runs parallel to Commonwealth and exits on Edsa, opposite the Muñoz Market on Roosevelt Avenue. Only a very short stretch remains to be completed to link Congressional Avenue to Luzon Avenue. Until it is completed, Congressional Avenue is a dead-end street.

A small bridge has to be constructed over a small creek on Tandang Sora. There already is a budget for it, approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the Department of Public Works and Highways is all set to start construction. But now the MMDA reportedly wants to get the budget and use it for another project. Isn't it illegal to switch budgets from one project to another?

I also don't understand why the DPWH is not doing anything to relocate the squatters. Construction of Congressional Avenue is being hindered by the presence of squatters who, ironically, have expressed willingness to be relocated. There are already two relocation sites for them: one offered by Rep. Chuck Mathay in Quezon City, and the other, by the National Housing Authority in Montalban. The squatters have long been counted and tagged by the DPWH. The department has one assistant secretary whose principal duty is squatter relocation.

The DPWH engineers and the private contractor are raring to get on with the construction of Congressional Avenue (a two-lane stretch has already been concreted), but for some strange reason, some people are dragging their feet on the project. Meanwhile, more squatters are moving in, which means government expenses for relocation will increase.

The associations of residents in several subdivisions along Congressional have been working for years for the completion of the avenue, looking for funding, cutting red tape, and pushing the project through the maze of government bureaucracy. This last phase of Congressional Avenue is like a self-help project.

Some government officials have been very helpful but others who should be are not. Rep. Chuck Mathay has contributed a lot from his pork barrel, and by finding a relocation site and talking to the squatters. But two senators and four other congressmen, who live in neighboring Tierra Pura and Tierra Bella which would be directly benefited by the completion of Congressional Avenue, have not contributed a single centavo from their pork barrel. Housing Secretary Michael Defensor and Speaker Jose de Venecia have been helpful but not Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte. The main responsibility for squatter demolition belongs to local government units.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Why is it that when our politicians make a joke it becomes a law, but when they make a law it becomes a joke.

Confucius says: A woman worries about her future until she gets a husband. A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

Never again

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

DAN Vizmanos is right, the youth of today barely remembers martial law. But I can't say I blame them. I recall that when I was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, the Japanese Occupation seemed an eternity away, something that belonged only to the remote past. Yet it was only two decades old.

By the early 1960s at least, there was still a great deal of war movies, though more thoughtful than the gung-ho John Wayne ones of the 1950s. Local movies, the Fernando Poe Jr. vehicles, remained pretty much in the 1950s mold. Over time, they took on the aspect of comedy, the contest being to spot the "Japanese" who were mowed down in one battle but reappeared in the next. Even the cruelty of the Japanese, which the old folks did not tire of pointing out, took on a comedic aspect in Vic Diaz's outrageous sadism. You wanted to look villainous, you imitated Vic Diaz's version of Japanese diction and pressed your fingers together repeatedly in malevolent glee at some deviltry or other.

Each time someone recounted the War, we would all look at each other knowingly, anticipating a very long personal account of heroism amid great adversity. The phrase "*tiempong Hapon*" or "Japanese time" became synonymous with old—even ancient. You wanted to say someone's thinking or fashion was old, you said, "*Panahon pa yan ng Hapon*" or "Japanese time *pa yan*."

Martial law is three decades old. And unlike the Japanese Occupation, there are very few movies made about it. "Sister Stella L" is one of the more powerful ones, having the virtue of being made during martial law itself. The most recent, of course, is "Dekada '70." But that's just a trickle. At least the Japanese Occupation, for all its having been transmogrified into bathos, was remembered by us. And at least, though we referred to "Japanese time" in flippant terms, we acknowledged it was there. Today, nobody recalls martial law even in its comedic aspects. Nobody says, "*Panahon pa yan ng* martial law," or "that was martial law time" to refer to something old or ancient. It's as if it did not happen.

We are not a country that likes to remind people of the past. Unlike Korea for example, which last year vehemently protested Japan's rewriting of history to show that its leaders were not imperialistically minded and that the atrocities attributed to their invasion of Korea and other Asian countries were grossly exaggerated. Those people do not forget, even things that happened half a century ago.

Vizmanos is right to warn that people who do not remember their past are doomed to repeat it. That proposition, though almost trite from repetition, remains true. The prospect that martial law might be repeated, or at least its equivalent, which is military rule, is always there. I don't know why anyone should be elated by the results of the Pulse Asia survey showing that 6 out of every 10 Filipinos reject martial law as a solution to this country's woes. The good news, of course, is that it is an improvement over the April results which said only 53 percent of Filipinos rejected it. The bad news is that 4 out of 10 Filipinos still think martial law works. That indicates a level of forgetfulness or ignorance or desperation that bodes ill for the country.

That statistic is not unlike the one that says 19 percent of the population wants to leave the country. The good news is that four out of five Filipinos still want to live here. But the horrendous news is that one out of five wants to pack up and go. You won't see that in any other Asian country.

My own worry about our inability to remember martial law, or indeed our inability to supply resolute reminders of it, in books and movies, is not just that we may repeat it but that we won't recognize it when it comes back. Last weekend, the activists, current and ex, were busy vowing "Never again!" many of them the ones who have found their way into the GMA government. That is all very well, if you know what you are vowing against.

In fact much of the exercise was merely directed at the threat of a coup. I agree that is something we should take deathly seriously, and exert ourselves to prevent. I said it before, and I say it again: I personally will resist one, and bestir myself to fight one if it happens. I agree, it will bring another round of military dictatorship into this country. It will be worse than anything it means to cure.

But the threat of a coup is not the only threat of a return to martial law there is. As I've said before also, the threat is not in the future, it is in the present. The activists, or at least the ex-activists, the ones to be found now in Gloria's stables, should have been shouting "Never again!" well before last weekend. Specifically, when GMA, who was an undeserving beneficiary of "people power," turned her back on people power and let loose military power. When she embraced war largely against a spurious enemy and militarized this country to a level unprecedented since martial law. And continues to do so to this day: She is president and defense chief at the same time. You can't have a more perfect expression of the national priority than that.

The trick is not merely to remember martial, to be able to resist martial law. The trick is to remember martial law to be able to recognize martial law, or its spirit or essence. And so resist it.

I do remember one thing the old folks used to say whenever we tried to imitate FPJ and wished we lived in Japanese times so we could have risen to cinematic heroism. They did not say "Be careful what you wish for, you might just get it." They said, "You have no idea how cruel war can be."

We had it in Japanese time. We had it in martial law time. We have it in GMA's time.

High Court should put Real in his place

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SINGAPORE branch of the German bank West LB A G has refused to release the $22 million in its vaults, which is part of the $683 million ill-gotten wealth of Marcos turned over by the Swiss government in 1998 to the Philippine National Bank, to be held in escrow until a final judgment by the Philippine Supreme Court. The German bank's refusal is only the latest bizarre turn in the long search for Marcos' ill-gotten wealth. When the $683 million was turned over to the PNB, among the original Swiss conditions was that the funds were to be invested in "AA"-rated institutions, and the PNB, as the escrow agent, invested them abroad, including in five banks in Singapore. With the July 15 ruling by the Philippine Supreme Court that the Marcos deposits were ill-gotten and should be forfeited in favor of the government, the Swiss Ministry of Justice approved their release to the government. Accordingly, all the money has been moved back to the PNB—except the $22 million in West LB. Bank officials were quoted as saying they would wait for a final determination by a "competent court" in the island state.

West LB's stand is ridiculous, since it is merely a custodian of the money. A PNB official theorized that either the bank's officials must have been terrorized by Hawaii district Judge Manuel Real's Sept. 2 "worldwide injunction" against the release of the Marcos deposits, or they don't want to let go of the earnings from the $22 million. The government has ordered the PCGG to get the $22 million out of Singapore, as Real's threat of contempt carries no weight in that country anymore than in Manila. Real's position is the equivalent of an RTC judge in our system. The sooner the Supreme Court puts him in his place, the better.

* * *

The second largest political party, the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), headed in the House by NPC founder and chair Eduardo Cojuangco's nephew, Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, has joined forces with the ruling Lakas to push once again for a shift by 2007 to a parliamentary form of government. It is noteworthy that the NPC has always been supportive of this shift and the convening of Congress as a constituent assembly to effect this shift. The new element that has been introduced, however, by House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Presidential Adviser for Special Concerns Norberto Gonzalez is the idea of a "transition president" to be elected in the May 2004 elections, who will oversee the shift to a parliamentary form by 2007.

Lakas leaders led by De Venecia have openly advocated that President Macapagal-Arroyo accept a presidential draft during the Oct. 7 national directorate meeting, so that she could become the "transition president." It makes sense. For if she were to be elected in 2004 and stays up to 2007, she will have completed six years in the presidency, or one term. If someone else were to be elected, it would be tougher to convince him to give up the presidency after three years. I imagine that the NPC itself is keenly eyeing the possibility that Cojuangco could run for prime minister under the new setup, rather than run for president in 2004 in a hectic nationwide campaign. With the two biggest political parties going all out for Consa within this year, the pressure has grown even stronger for the Senate to yield. Also pushing for the shift is a broad coalition that includes religious, business and academic leaders.

* * *

De Venecia was able to test the idea of a parliamentary shift by 2007 and a "transition president" in 2004 with 15 CEOs of some of the largest American firms doing business here and in the Asean region during the past two decades. The CEOs, who visited Manila last week in the course of an Asean swing, represented such companies as Boeing, Chevron Texaco, Covanta Energy, FedEx, UPS, Mirant Corp., Unisys Philippines, Oracle and United Technologies Corp., led by Edison Mission Energy's Bob Driscoll. The firms are members of the US Asean Business Council, one of the strongest lobby groups in Washington, with a standing akin to that of the Makati Business Club in the local business community. Sources say De Venecia's vision of a parliamentary shift and a transition president was met with keen interest by the CEOs, who felt happy that at least someone was mapping out a political plan for the country where they have invested billions of US dollars.

* * *

It was not coincidental that the US Asean Business Council's visit came a month before that of President George W. Bush on Oct. 18. In fact, it lobbied for him to come here. The CEOs spent four days meeting with leaders of the three branches of government, highlighted by a two-hour dialogue with President Macapagal-Arroyo. They were said to have been quite upbeat about the country and the economy, which is expected to perform better than many of our neighbors.

Did they get affected by the current political skirmishes? Sources say the CEOs knew from longtime experience that such political bickering is part and parcel of the campaign season.

Aside from the parliamentary shift, another idea that sparked interest among the CEOs was the plan discussed by De Venecia, based on the idea broached earlier by Visiting Forces Agreement Commission Director-General Amado Valdez, to put up a naval maintenance and repair facility for foreign commercial and military ships at Subic and a similar one for foreign aircraft in Clark. Given the US government's renewed interest in this region's role in the global fight against terrorism, the visitors were said to be all ears.

A rare and successful staging of 'TVM'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TESTED by fire, that's what the latest staging of "The Vagina Monologues" last weekend was.

First, it was the opening production of the new Republic of Malate, which burned down some months ago but has risen again as a theater and performance venue.

Second, it featured the incomparable cast of Zeneida Amador, Baby Barredo and Monique Wilson, who among the three of them embody decades of theatrical experience, wisdom and artistry. For Monique, especially, the performance must have brought back memories of her own testing by fire at the hands of Bibot and Baby, her "mothers in theatre." As she wrote in an article: this staging of "The Vagina Monologues" will be "the culmination of the years of training and nurturing they gave me as an artist, the preparation they gave me as a director and artistic director of my own company, and a unifying symbol that great theatre lives on when you love theatre so much to want to share it and pass it on."

And last, the performance was a testament to "The Vagina Monologues" and to the maturity of local audiences. When she first staged "TVM" in Manila three years ago, Monique recalls, she had to be quite circumspect in promoting it, not being allowed to even say the word "vagina" on TV! Sponsors who had no qualms about backing the New Voice Company's other edgy productions suddenly turned squeamish, concerned about their good names being linked to a show about vaginas.

But the show survived the worst fears of its producers, with NVC going on to rack up sold-out performances here and abroad, the news and reviews spread largely through word-of-mouth. In 2001, NVC staged an adaptation of "TVM" in Filipino, and today both English and Filipino versions are touring schools and provinces around the country.

* * *

WHEN I first heard about this latest staging of "The Vagina Monologues," I was determined to watch it, anxious that we might never see such a cast in such a production again. I had seen Bibot and Baby perform excerpts of "TVM" in two "V-Days," special benefit performances held annually to raise public consciousness about issues of violence against women and to help raise funds for organizations helping abused women and children. But this would be the first time they would be doing the full play together with Monique.

"You must really love the play!" exclaimed Lara de Jesus, a New Voice Company member and daughter of friends, as she took my ticket for the Saturday performance. It would be my fourth time to watch "TVM," apart from taking part in two "V-Day" celebrations, but I must say that every performance and each new set of actors manage to trigger new insights, new reflections, new emotions in me.

It was interesting, for instance, to watch Bibot take on the role of the elderly woman who had closed off all thoughts and access to her "down there" after a disastrous date. While younger actresses worked hard to create the persona of a woman getting on in years, Bibot could concentrate instead on the character's transformation, her slow and gradual awakening and opening to matters sexual and personal.

* * *

BABY was hilarious and even raunchy in some portions, especially since she was given the task of taking on "The Woman who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," famous among "TVM" fans as "the moans."

She was more reserved than other women who'd dared do the "moans," but Baby's unique touch was her accessibility to the audience, the twinkle in her eyes clearly drawing in spectators to share in the fun she was having. It was exhilarating watching her approach the material with growing recklessness and candor.

Monique chose to perform the most challenging pieces, including the testimony of the Bosnian rape survivor and the closing number, "I Was there in the Room," an eyewitness account of a birth. It was this last portion that most moved me, calling back memories of my own deliveries of my two children, and instilling, in the remembering, awe and indeed wonder at the power and resilience and heart—yes, heart—of our vaginas. The creator was indeed saying something in locating both our center of pleasure and passageway to creation in a single organ. An organ we have through the ages chosen to conceal and ignore, deny and even denounce.

Thank you, Monique, Bibot and Baby, for allowing us one more reason to celebrate our sexuality and humanity, and our shared sisterhood.

* * *

THIS weekend, New Voice Company mounts "Monique Sings Gershwin and Other Broadway Hits," also at the Republic of Malate, featuring for the most part the songs that Monique Wilson performs in a CD of the same name produced and recorded in Japan.

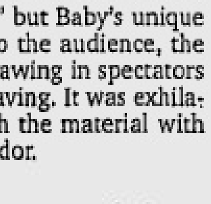
I got a CD at the "TVM" performance, and, judging from what I heard, the concert promises to be another riveting performance. The CD is a showcase not just of Monique's voice and artistry, but also of George and Ira Gershwin's astounding body of work. Thanks to Monique's sharp enunciation, the clever lyrics, the play of words, the keen wit and ironies—all are given full play and the proper appreciation. With surprise, one finds out, for instance, that Gershwin had been nominated only once for the Academy Award, even as his songs catapulted many a forgettable movie into a classic.

Only a performer of Monique's confidence and gifts would have dared take on this challenge of recording the most beloved standards and, indeed, classics of the romantic genre. Interestingly, judging from a recent TV appearance of Monique, her voice seems to have matured since five years ago when the CD was recorded. Gershwin lovers should have a wonderful, enriching evening when Monique sings Gershwin.

Realities of Our Time

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



FOR YOUR amusement, here's bitterer brew for you to swallow as you look at our present day realities.

In 1856 Henry Ellis needed a vacation, a change of air. At the time, it seemed Hong Kong residents were bound to their desks in the pursuit of gain and seldom left them; the residents of Manila, on the other hand, "care little to leave their happy, healthy, social isle, for a place (i.e. Hong Kong) not particularly famous for either of these characteristics."

Hong Kong, which many of us regarded—or used to regard anyway—as more cosmopolitan and sophisticated than our homeland, had at the time "a bleakness of life and prisoner-like sensation…arising in great measure…from monotony." It was also "exceedingly dull, stupid and monotonous, to say nothing of the baneful influence of the climate on health and spirits." Furthermore, despite there being little intercourse with Manila, "it was invariably well spoken of" and most foreigners made a point to visit it before returning home.

It was for a long time—and probably still—maintained by many that the *"bahay na bato"* was really a transported Spanish-style architecture and not of Filipino origin. Mr. Ellis called them "the houses of Manila." These were "two-storied, red-tiled edifices, of a quadrangular form, enclosing within their four sides a spacious court-yard which is entered through a massive arched gateway. The basement story, the walls of which are built remarkably thick and well, in order to resist the effects of earthquakes, is seldom used as a dwelling-place, but is frequently appropriated—especially in mercantile establishments—for offices or store-rooms, connected with the transaction of business. My own impression is that the ground-floor portion of their houses is not sufficiently appreciated by the people of Manilla; for I have frequently found, when the upper story was pretty nearly red-hot, you might sit in the lower in a comparatively cool climate—the thickness of the vaulted roof overhead…"

Not all the houses were identical. Others had an additional story or high towers to look out from. Here and there, a part of the courtyard was roofed over and turned into a garden with a few Chinese flower pots although others had gardens that were "perfect paradises of bloom and bouquet."

You will note too that we are attached to the jitneys because among other things these vehicles drop you practically at the doorstep of wherever you want to go. Then, too, no one it seemed moved about without a carriage, which were called by the Spaniards *"los zapatos del pais,"* which means literally "the shoes of the country." At the door of every mercantile establishment and most private ones were carriages, and they were used "if it is only to cross the street."

In those days, Intramuros was cleaner than the "extramuros" but "either town is fully as clean as those of our colonies, and cleaner by far than the generality of our provincial towns at home…" Before 1872 and the unrest that followed, Ellis informs us that the Spanish were wary of firearms being introduced into the colony "for fear of their falling into the hands of the Indians, and thereby rendering them better able to cope with the troops either in avowed rebellion or in marauding parties in both of which characters they have occasionally shown themselves formidable opponents."

All the houses situated along the Pasig River had their own landing place and the general activity was increased by the loading and unloading of cargoes that passed to and from vessels to the roads or to other *bancas* on their way to Laguna de Bai. Large rafts of timber or bamboo coming from the same direction added life and variety to the river.

Our custom of offering the visitor anything in one's home that he may want was apparently a Spanish trait as well, and any article for which a visitor expressed the slightest admiration was immediately offered.

His friend's country house in Sta. Ana was on the banks of the Pasig and its rear, which would have been the fourth side of the quadrangle, opened to the river and was planted to "plants and flowers of every variety." Behind was a pathway 40 or 50 feet long enclosed by a light trellised archway covered by dense flowering creepers. At the end of the walk was the bathhouse made of bamboo and the flowing river where one could swim as often as he wanted.

Somewhere in Los Baños was supposed to be an enchanted lake called *"Lagunita de Socol,"* some two or three miles from the shore with a hill, 1200- to 1500-feet high, separating the two lakes. This enchanted lake was cold and dark and measured between two or three miles in circumference and was surrounded by thickly wooded masses that even at noon made it difficult for the sun's rays to shine through. It was surrounded by other hills. Besides heron and sea fowl of different kinds, there were many bats. They hang in clusters from the trees, screaming as though wounded.

(Having been to Los Baños several times I am thoroughly fascinated by this reference since I have never heard anyone refer to any other lake nearby.)

* * *

(From "Hong Kong to Manila and The Lakes of Luzon in The Philippine Isles in the year 1856," Henry T. Ellis, R.N).

War weary

YOUNG BLOOD

Alvin B. Curada

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY job has brought me serendipitously to South Cotabato. My first few weeks at work there were spent assisting in training programs for corn farmers. Since then, the beautiful city of Koronadal has become my host every time I visit cooperatives in the province to monitor project implementation and assess the corn post-harvest system in the area.

The most recent bombing of a busy market in Koronadal, which killed several people, brought me goose bumps. I was in that place just a few months ago, trying to decide what fruits to buy and then observing people as they went about their business as I waited for the tricycle to be filled beyond its capacity before it left for San Felipe.

Shock and grief engulfed me as I watched the late-night news program on TV. As the screen showed the destruction left by the explosion, I wondered what happened to the shoe repairman who loudly called my attention to the sorry state of the soles of my shoes and offered to repair it. I prayed for the the gracious, middle-aged fruit vendor who always made sure I got only the biggest and sweetest apple. I worried about my many nameless friends, who might have been there that day.

When I was there, there was a lot of military movements. Checkpoints were everywhere. Bomb threats were quite common. Once, I was stopped and questioned by soldiers as I was going home after watching a late movie.

Even then the strict security checks in one of the malls, which was bombed later, was already irritating. I didn't like to stand behind a long queue of people, who were being asked to turn their mobile phones off and on after having their bags scanned, when all I wanted was just to have a bite of my favorite crispy chicken wings at a fast-food outlet after a long day in the field gathering corn samples.

Now, I understand why.

Incidents like the bombing coupled with the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings and clashes between government troops and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front make me very sad. With the heavy media coverage given to these events, the reputation of the beautiful and resource-rich southern Philippines has been tarnished. As a result, infrastructure development is delayed and economic growth is stunted.

The series of bad news has brought back to memory a nightmare that I have been trying to forget all these years.

I am no stranger to conflict. I was a witness to the brutal siege of our blissful town by leftist rebels and several bloody ambuscades that killed the fathers of some of my friends.

One bright day, as we were having classes, deafening explosions rent the air. Until now, the crisp exchange of bullets still reverberates in my ears. It seemed as if bullets were whizzing over our heads and some of them would hit us any moment. I still have a very clear picture of the horror-stricken faces of my classmates and my mom, crying and desperately trying to hold on to my younger brother and me amid the chaos.

These encounters with violence left many questions in my young mind. They gave me a glimpse of the real world early and unexpectedly—a world full of uncertainties, difficulties and conflicts.

It is disheartening to know that some of the brightest minds used their intelligence and creativity to create a world where warfare and misery are more common than they were during primitive times. I find it odd, for instance, that Alfred Nobel, after whom the prestigious Nobel Prize was named after, invented dynamite in an effort to find an elusive peace.

The world in which we live has seen a marked increase in human suffering. Is it the selfish gene within us or is William Golding's postulate true that man is inherently evil? It is always tempting and convenient to place the blame and to conclude that the problem lies in nature's faulty design rather than in our willfulness.

During my many trips to rural areas in Mindanao, guns proudly tucked under belt or carried loosely over the shoulder, were a common sight. I would often wonder if the law banning the carrying of firearms outside homes had been repealed.

Is it this mentality of the warrior among men that is causing endless conflict? One time during a party a man offered a relative, who was in the Army, a couple of hundred of pesos if the latter would lend him his uniforms so that he could have himself photographed in full battle gear. The demeanor of the man, as the camera flashed and clicked away, never fails to bring amazement and laughter to us.

The cause of the conflict in the south is deeply rooted. It started along before the ancestors I know were born. Tens of thousands have already perished in the struggle. Countless bright negotiators have come and gone without producing a long-lasting agreement. Contrary to popular belief, the war is not about conflicting religious convictions. More than anything else, its reason is socio-economic.

A resolution of the conflict may take some time. But I think peace is not as elusive as everyone seems to think. I remember the song we sang at our graduation which goes in part:

Let there be peace on earth/ and let it begin with me.
Let me walk with my brother/ in perfect harmony.
With every step that I take/ let this by my solemn vow:
to take each moment/ and live each moment/ with peace eternally.
Let peace begin with me./ Let this be the moment now.

I hope that the long history of violence failed to etch aggression, brutality and cruelty in the DNA of young Mindanaoans. The culture of hatred and violence should not be handed down to the next generation. But unless the existing cycle of violence is stopped now, conflict will continue long after the present generation becomes part of the earth.

We created the world we are in today. After decades of negotiations and searching for solutions, it has become clear that the government alone cannot resolve the conflict. The solution lies in our hands. If we let peace reign in our own homes and neighborhood, that could be the start of building peace in the community.

The senseless killings of innocent victims must be stopped. We are all losers in this battle. Mindanao is weeping and crying out for help. Let us comfort her and nurse her back to health.

Alvin B. Curada, 25, finished agricultural engineering at the University of the Philippines Los Baños. He now works for a government agricultural research agency.

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Ten Commandments for a President

BELOW is my suggested Ten Commandments for the President of the Philippines, present and future.

I. Thou shalt make thy inauguration as simple as possible, so that it becomes not the celebration of a political party's victory, but a celebration of freedom.

II. Thou shalt cultivate transparency, not as a slogan but as a creed to guide your decisions, knowing that your people cannot be fooled all of the time.

III. Thou shalt avoid getting Cabinet officials from your own political party, supporters, sycophants and other nincompoops; rather, seek men and women of honesty, probity and ability, irrespective of what party they come from, knowing that no one has a monopoly of patriotism.

IV. Thou shalt view all controversies from all angles and refrain from being partisan, knowing that there are always three sides to an issue: yours, the other's and the Truth.

V. Be consistent in your foreign policy and be flexible in all matters except the sovereignty and honor of your nation.

VI. Be very careful in accepting the counsel of your friends and supporters, since many of them have selfish interests at heart in the guise of proposals.

VII. Be accessible to your people, especially the poor and the marginalized, for as correctly said by one of your predecessors: those who have less in life should have more in law.

VIII. Be humble enough to admit mistakes since nobody is perfect, and your admission of error does not diminish but even shows your real greatness.

IX. Remember that you are a leader and part of real leadership is your resolve to make unpopular decisions in spite of disapproval by misguided people; ultimately history will be your final judge.

X. Have real fear and reverence for Almighty God, knowing that after all the noise shall have ceased and all human endeavors shall have reached their consummation on the horizon of time, eternity will be before you, and like all other mortals, you will face a higher court in heaven.

—**REV. SALVADOR D. EDUARTE,**
United Church of Christ,
Barangay Talinkapor,
San Nicolas,
2447 Pangasinan

Monkey justice

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"DAYA! Daya!"

"Cheating! Cheating!" one can imagine the capuchin monkeys screaming out in a rather innovative experiment conducted to find out if monkeys had a sense of fairness. The results, published in the journal Nature, suggest that in at least one species, there may be something like "monkey justice."

The two lead researchers, Sarah Brosnan and Frans de Waal, started out with the knowledge that capuchin monkeys like cucumbers, which could be used as rewards for performing certain tasks. The researchers also knew that even more than cucumbers, the monkeys liked grapes, that is, grapes could be considered as a kind of "bonus."

They then grouped 10 female capuchin monkeys into pairs, getting them to perform certain tasks side by side. If both monkeys performed a task correctly, they'd each be given a cucumber. Fair enough, right?

Then the researchers added a twist to the experiment. Sometimes, they would give a grape to one monkey and a cucumber to the other, even if they performed the same tasks. Even worse, the researchers would sometimes "reward" one monkey a grape for not doing anything.

I hope you're being properly human and reacting, *"Daya!"* Now the question is whether the capuchin monkeys would react in the manner you're doing. It seems they did. According to the researchers, the response was quite dramatic. Some of the monkeys who were "victims of injustice" began to refuse tasks that were set. Others—and this is really amazing—would perform the task but refuse to take the reward. And still others would accept the reward but throw it down on the ground!

There's more to this monkey morality tale. Brosnan and De Waal report that the "mistreated" monkeys never reacted against their "privileged" partners. In fact, if after an "injustice" a capuchin monkey was offered a grape for not doing anything, she would sometimes give it to the other monkey!

Of course, this is just one experiment, with a small group of monkeys. Brosnan and De Waal themselves admit the study is still too limited to make any grand conclusions, and they intend to repeat the study among chimpanzees, who are more closely related to humans.

Why go through all this trouble? Humans like to think we're the most superior of animal species, that we are the only ones who can think and rationalize, and that fairness and justice are functions of this ability to rationalize, to make rules. Now we have to wonder if indeed an ethical sense of "fairness" is uniquely human.

But if capuchin monkeys have a sense of fairness and justice, would it mean that a sense of fairness evolved much earlier in pre-human species? Could it mean, too, that the widespread injustices we have today are in fact human creations?

But wait, we do know animals do "perpetuate" injustices on each other as well. You see that with our pets—many dogs and cats will grab food from "fellow" pets' dishes, or even sometimes from their mouths.

The question though is whether they are "conscious" of these injustices. You can scold the "unjust" dog, "Bad boy. Don't do that," and they'll look contrite, but any good animal psychologist will tell you they hide their tails only because they know you disapprove of something, but will not know what exactly you're scolding them for.

Humans, in contrast, intentionally deprive someone else of what he or she deserves. Some, like our dogs, will react with contrition when the injustice is exposed. Others will try to rationalize their way out, arguing they have families to feed. So, maybe, it is in fact our "intelligence," including our ability to go into convoluted reasoning, that works against fairness and justice, virtues that evolved earlier as part of our animal legacy.

The biologist in me wants to believe we are "innately" wired to be just and fair. Brosnan and De Waal say cooperation is itself the product of biological evolution; that in nature, cooperation rather than competition is the key to survival.

But my training in anthropology also tells me fairness and justice need to evolve within societies, in day to day practice at home and in our work place. I've already written about how we don't have a word for "fairness" in Tagalog. I pointed out that *"patas,"* the word many Tagalogs use to mean "fair," isn't quite accurate. My friend Dr. Henny Espanola of Iloilo City agrees: "*Patas* is more for "equal," used in a game or business. Nothing won, nothing lost." Among Ilonggos, she points out, the terms *"justo"* and *"justo justo lang"*—Spanish for "just"—are used to refer to being fair.

Philippine society, with its mix of values coming from feudalism and a highly competitive capitalism, has very little sense of fairness. The emphasis always is on our own privilege and entitlement. We don't feel we owe the less powerful anything, whether they are our employees, our children, our co-workers.

Note, too, that the underdog, the oppressed classes do not necessarily think of liberation in terms of justice. All too often, "fairness" means negotiating to get one's share of the loot, and keeping quiet if successful at getting one's cut, thinking "fairness" has been achieved in terms of *"patas."*

The capuchin monkeys seem to know better, refusing an unjust reward or rejecting it almost violently, or going "on strike" by refusing any more tasks given a situation that is so unjust. They seem to know—and we better pick up that lesson soon—that a *"patas"* that comes with collusion or compromise will be a "no win-no loss" proposition only in the short term. In the end, it will lead to a situation where we will all lose, whether corruptors, corrupted or the ones who choose to keep quiet about the system.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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Decommission PTA, Gordon proposes

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon recommended the "decommissioning" of the Philippine Tourism Authority's Central Luzon office or of the entire agency. If this is not possible, Gordon said he wanted the agency to be reorganized.

Gordon relayed the proposals by phone to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo after he scolded PTA regional officials for "not working enough" for the soft launch of the "Hilaga" exhibit at the Philippine Christmas Village here on Sunday.

The PTA manages the 10-hectare park. Built in 1990 to give a year-round showcase of Filipino Christmas traditions and crafts, Paskuhan has been almost idle despite several efforts to revive it.

The DOT re-themed it as the "Hilaga, North Philippines Tourism, Trade, Historical, Cultural and Entertainment Village" in a bid to save the structure from deterioration, boost tourism and create jobs.

The DOT earmarked P10 million for the Hilaga project.

At the Poinsettia Hall, which he ordered closed and emptied before he began reprimanding the PTA officials, Gordon enumerated a list of their unfinished tasks before the 3 p.m. opening.

These include the non-collection of garbage, the non-replacement of the Philippine flag, the uncompleted renovation works and the failure to invite traders and vendors.

He reminded them that volunteers from Olongapo City, his home city, had done their part by helping clean the 10-hectare park.

"My people worked hard day and night here for the past weeks," he said. Emphasizing that the opening had been postponed twice, he said: "You did not work enough."

Gordon stressed that the thrust of the DOT and the PTA was to make tourism work for the economy. The poor performance of the PTA, he said, indicated lack of "pagmamalasakit" and "kapwa tao." Their "no sense of urgency," he said, dismayed him.

He said the agency had been losing money despite having about 1,700 personnel and several properties.

When asked to explain for the delay in the renovation works, Marlon Prieto, PTA regional officer-in-charge, said the funds came late.

But Gordon said this problem was simply a matter of negotiation since the PTA had tapped the same contractors in previous projects.

This was the second time that Gordon admonished PTA officials. The first was in June when, during a surprise visit, he saw the place in a neglected state.

The PTA maintains a 30-member work force at the Paskuhan.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

US soldiers take time out for bonding

US and Filipino soldiers ham it up during a lull in military exercises. ROMEO GACAD/AFP

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Some American soldiers who participated in the recently concluded joint Philippine-United States Amphibious Group Exercises (Argex 03) found time to bond with their Filipino relatives before they returned to their base in Okinawa Sunday.

US forces officials allowed their soldiers to talk to their relatives who were waiting at the gate of the Alava Pier, where their ships were docked.

Arsemio Olipio, 77, of Lubao, Pampanga, arrived here early Sunday morning to greet his son-in-law Mark Beando of the US Navy.

Olipio, together with his four grandchildren, brought dried mangoes and Kapampangan dishes for Beando.

Olipio said he learned of the departure of the US soldiers from his daughter and Beando's wife Arlene, who is now in Okinawa.

Beando, 42, will retire from the US military service in three years, Olipio said.

A couple from Orani, Bataan, also went to this freeport expecting to see their brother-in-law Arnel Bautista of the US Navy before he returned to Japan.

The couple said they failed to see Bautista when the three US ships docked here last week because they were not allowed to get close to the pier.

But on Sunday, US military officials allowed them to spend time with Bautista.

"We have been preparing for this time for about a week now," the couple said.

They said they gave Bautista *bagoong* (fish paste) and mangoes.

US officials and local law enforcers have allowed only US military dependents with valid IDs to enter the Alava Pier and spend time with their relatives in the US forces.

Some visitors were also allowed to enter and tour the three ships of the US forces. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Poverty, lack of reforms seen causes of terrorism

COTABATO CITY—The lack of social and democratic reforms in most Muslim countries have resulted in increasing poverty and illiteracy, two factors that worsen the global problem on terrorism, an official of a US think tank said.

"With very few exceptions like Malaysia, Tunisia and perhaps Iran, Muslim countries are failing because there is not much focus (given) on the social well-being (of the citizenry)," Dr. Radwan Masmoudi, founder of the Washington-based Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy (CSID), said.

CSID is composed of Muslims and Christian experts in their specific fields.

Masmoudi, an award winning control scientist, told the INQUIRER that the prevailing systems of governance in most Muslim states failed to measure up to their primary obligations such as "the social well-being of their citizens based on justice, peace and truth, and against injustice."

He said because of a high-level of dissatisfaction, "people tend to lose hope and resort to terror" to achieve change.

Masmoudi, along with Dr. Louay Safi of the International Institute of Islamic Thought in Silver Spring, Maryland and other Muslim Americans, were in the country for a series of dialogues with local Muslims in the academe and religious leaders.

Discontent in prevailing systems in Muslim states, Masmoudi said, would also explain why even Muslim centers of population like Riyadh became terror targets and why there were such cases as the recent attacks on mosques in Chechnya and Iraq.

Masmoudi, a recipient of the prestigious George Olmsted Award, said like any other social problem, poverty and discontent were big factors that drove people to extremism and terrorism.

But he quickly said, "rich terrorist leaders like Osama bin Laden" were "more of an exception rather than the rule."

Masmoudi and Safi also advised local Muslims to stand up as one so that small groups with vested interests like the Abu Sayyaf would not succeed in misrepresenting Islam with "Mafia-like operations such as kidnapping-for-ransom." *Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Missing village chief found dead

BACOLOD CITY—The body of a barangay captain here who mysteriously disappeared 20 days ago was found floating in waters between Iloilo and Negros Occidental on Friday.

The body of Eleuterio Salabas, barangay captain of Pahanocoy and brother-in-law of former Bacolod Rep. John Orola, had a gunshot wound in the head.

This was also the same fate suffered by his two companions who disappeared with him, Ricardo Suganob and Maximo Lomonjo Jr., whose bodies were discovered floating in a river in Bago City, and in the waters of Pulupandan early this month, according to National Bureau of Investigation-Bacolod chief Celso Estorga.

Estorga said fishermen found the body of Salabas, which was already in an advanced state of decomposition.

Salabas and his two companions, who were on board a Nissan Frontier pickup, disappeared on Aug. 31, following a traffic altercation with three persons along the highway of Barangay Tangub, in Bacolod City. The Nissan Frontier was found later in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

The NBI already has sketches of at least three suspects.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Party-list reps squabble over Marcos wealth

By Bernadette Parco
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Party-list Rep. Etta Rosales has been criticized for offering to give lawyer Robert Swift a share of the compensation for human rights victims of the 20-year Marcos dictatorship.

Party-list Rep. J.V. Bautista of Sanlakas said Rosales does not have the authority to offer even part of the compensation package to the lawyers.

Besides, he added, the courts will surely give Swift the lawyer's fees.

Rosales, chair of the House committee on civil, political and human rights, proposed to give Swift, lawyer of Claimants 1081, 5 percent of the compensation for Marcos human rights victims.

But Bautista said Rosales' proposal would mean that the money intended for the human rights victims would be reduced.

He also criticized Rosales for failing to forfeit her right to the compensation claim.

"I do not believe, as a human rights victim myself, that she should receive something for the work that she has done and as a member of Congress. She should not benefit from a law that she has co-authored. She must renounce it (her right to the monetary claim)," Bautista said.

He said party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran had waived their claim to the compensation package to avoid any possible conflict of interest that might arise as members of Congress.

Bautista was in Cebu on Saturday as a guest speaker at the launching of Koalisyong sa mga Tigpanalipod sa Tawhanang Katungod (Katungod), a coalition of human rights groups in Central Visayas.

The coalition includes the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) and the Commission on Human Rights.

Bautista, who was imprisoned for two months during martial law, said they fought against the dictatorship not because they wanted to be compensated later on.

He said the families of the human rights victims who disappeared should receive the compensation package because of the mental, psychological and emotional anxieties that they had suffered.

The downfall of the dictatorship was the reward of the human rights activists who were tortured and imprisoned, he added.

Isabela town to get ₱62-M loan for clean water

ILAGAN, Isabela—To supply clean drinking water to villagers, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has approved a P62-million soft loan to the Ilagan municipal government to finance the rehabilitation of water supply facilities in the town.

Mayor Delfinito Albano said the P62 million maximum amount of the loan, which has a 14-year repayment scheme and an interest rate ranging from 9 to 11 percent a year, would be used to install modern equipment and upgrade facilities of the Ilagan Water District.

Consumers have been complaining of murky and yellowish water coming out of their pipes and faucets for several years now.

"This has been a perennial problem for the consumers . . . Complaints have been mounting and the firm cannot upgrade its facilities," Albano said.

The water system has been providing potable water to 2,000 families.

This tie-up will soon give potable water supply to 20,000 families or 100,000 people in the town proper, which will include (Barangays) Alibagu, Baligatan, San Felipe, Malalam and other villages.

Water district officials admitted they would not be able to sustain the upgrading of facilities without getting loan support from local and national banking institutions.

To remedy the situation, the local government and the water district have agreed to upgrade the water facilities.

The Ilagan government and the water district officials have signed a memorandum of agreement that the municipal treasurer's office will collect loan repayments that will be deposited in a trust fund for remittance to the JBIC. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

COA uncovers misuse of funds in Paoay

PAOAY, Ilocos Norte—This town's coffers coughed up more than P500,000 to pay overpriced construction projects while more than P3 million from specific fund sources were used to cover non-related expenditures, a special audit report showed.

Conducted by a three-member team from the Commission on Audit's special audit office, the review of the town's financial transactions and operations covered 1998 to 2000.

Based on the document, the audit report was furnished to the COA office in Ilocos Norte only in April while a copy of the report was sent to Mayor Nenuca Evangelista in May.

The team completed its audit in 2001 but the report was only made public recently when Councilor Eisenhower Adaza divulged the COA's findings in his privilege speech on Sept. 3.

Ildefonso Deloria, a COA director, advised Evangelista to implement the commission's recommendations and report whatever actions the mayor has taken within a month upon receipt of the report.

The recommendations include requiring Robert Duran, owner of RCD General Construction, to return more than P400,000 for unaccomplished project, excess labor cost, equipment and wasted materials.

The commission also advised the town's engineer, Chito Aquino, to pay for unaccounted 555 cement bags worth P72,150 and excess labor cost of P38,107.

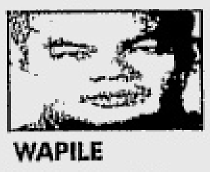
Four months later, the COA has yet to report if its recommendations were heeded.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER, however, showed that Evangelista has already written concerned department heads to comment and comply with the COA's findings.

The officials include the town's planning and development coordinator, agriculture officer, engineer, and the budget officer including the contractor who cornered all town infrastructure projects.

The audit revealed defects in at least five projects where costs either exceeded or fell short of the approved program of work. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice


WAPILE

IT is exactly 498 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

ROUNDUP

Bomb blast hurts 1

COTABATO CITY—A housewife was injured when a bomb exploded near her house in Barangay Kalanganan Uno on Friday. Senior Supt. Peraco Macacua, city police chief, said the victim, Soraya Datumanguda, was cooking when a bomb of still unknown make exploded near the family's makeshift kitchen. The National Bureau of Investigation asked police investigators to check on the circumstances surrounding the blast after obtaining an intelligence report that explosive-making has become rampant in the fishing community. Datumanguda, 40, who suffered multiple wounds from the powerful blast, was confined at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rebs deny burning bus

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebels denied a military report linking them to Monday night's burning of a Bachelor Express bus and the looting of its passengers in Pantukan town, Compostela Valley. Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesperson of the New People's Army's Merardo Arce Command, said the perpetrators of the bus-burning were bandits "conniving with the military." Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, chief of the military's Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao, earlier said the NPA burned the bus because its owners failed to pay revolutionary taxes.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

1 hurt in attack on truck

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified men fired on a truck with eight passengers and loaded with sacks of corn along the highway of Kapatagan, Lanao del Sur on Friday. Chief Supt. Acmad Omar, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police director, said truck helper Nasser Kamad, 33, was wounded in the attack. Omar said the truck driver refused to pull over when flagged down by suspicious-looking bystanders, prompting the attack. Police said the suspects could be members of an extortion gang operating along the Narciso Ramos National Highway connecting this city to Marawi City.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cops see inside job

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police on Wednesday said they were looking into the possible involvement of two security guards of the Bank of the Philippines Islands (BPI) with the suspects who took away P1.5 million cash from a bank in a daring afternoon heist in Cavite last week. Cavite police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales said they have already put the two security guards of the BPI under investigation. Police investigation showed that three of at least 10 suspects lined up in front of the bank pretending to use its automated teller machine.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Probers see inside job in Benguet gold bar rob

BAGUIO CITY—Investigators are looking at the possibility that the robbery of at least 21 kilograms of gold belonging to a mining firm in Benguet was an inside job.

An engineer and four security guards of the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (LCMC) in Mankayan, Benguet, were killed when seven armed men took a gold bar they were transporting to the mine site on Saturday afternoon.

The newly minted gold bar, weighing 21.836 kilograms and worth P13.3 million, was the LCMC's two-day output, said Flor Fajilan, LCMC spokesperson.

Fajilan said the suspects fired at the pickup truck carrying the gold bar when the LCMC's two-vehicle convoy reached Barangay Paco, Mankayan at 5:45 p.m. Saturday. The attack was staged about 200 meters away from the LCMC refinery where the gold bar was minted.

He said LCMC metallurgical engineer Ricardo Tamayo Jr., who was in charge of handing over the gold bar to the company, and security guards Francisco Mallare, Abraham Damogo, Peter Chopchopen and Romeo Pongod were killed in the attack.

Most of the victims suffered bullet wounds in the head, police investigators said.

Witnesses said the suspects used M-14 Armalite rifles in the attack. The robbers then took the box containing the gold bar and fled on foot either to Bakun, Benguet or Cervantes, Ilocos Sur.

Fajilan said the suspects struck as the company officials and employees were busy with activities related to its 67th anniversary celebration. A concert was scheduled at 6 p.m. on the day of the robbery.

Supt. Conrado Miniano, Benguet police director, said they were investigating whether some LCMC employees were involved in the robbery because of its timing, precision and choice of ambush area. *Frank Cimatu with a report from Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor belittles press club probe

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has described the pledge of some members of the National Press Club (NPC) to raise a P1-million reward for people who can identify the killers of broadcaster Juan Pala Jr. as a "corny" move.

Duterte said the NPC has not even paid its building rent in Manila.

"I would even add another P1 million to their money," the mayor said during his weekly TV program on Sunday morning.

Duterte said he also doubted the credibility of the NPC-created Task Force Freedom, which will separately investigate Pala's murder.

He said Waldy Carbonell, one of the investigators, has a string of extortion cases.

"Who the hell are you?" Duterte asked, addressing himself to Carbonell.

"Don't pretend that you are big in Manila. You better behave here," he said.

Carbonell, Ruther Batuigas and Roger Santos were here Friday to start the investigation. *Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TRIBAL OFFICE OPINION

Ancestral domain no obstacle to mining

DAVAO CITY—The issuance of Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) to at least four indigenous groups covering about 30,000 hectares of land in Compostela Valley, including the entire mining area of Mt. Diwata, has no conflict with mining claims, land ownerships and other occupancy arrangements existing in the area.

The National Commission on the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in the province said on the contrary, the issuance of the CADT could even lead to the final settlement of the decades-old issue on the legalization of the operations of small miners in the gold rush area, also known as Diwalwal.

Shirley Iguianon, NCIP provincial director, said the inclusion of the Diwalwal mining areas under the CADT system "is a blessing," as mining groups would only have "one landowner, the tribes to talk with" unlike in the past when they had many persons to talk to.

On Aug. 22, 2003 the NCIP issued the CADT to Mandaya, Manobo, Mangguangan and Dibabawon tribes in Monkayo town.

"Besides, the Diwalwal mining community could also share in the coming of government's development interventions like farm-to-market roads, water systems or school buildings now that a clear legal instrument has been given to the indigenous peoples in the area," Iguianon said.

She said under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), existing occupancy instruments such as titles, claims and even mere use of the lands as well as permits and contracts on use of natural resources and minerals would be respected under the "as is, where is" principle, while dubious arrangements would have to be settled through due process of law.

"The issuance of CADT would mean that the ancestral domain has been delineated solely for the tribe and their members, and lands inside it cannot be sold," she said.

At present, Diwalwal, particularly the 8,100 hectares enclosing the mining area, has been classified as a mineral reservation under President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation No. 297 issued on Nov. 25, 2002.

. Lawyer Roque Agton, NCIP director for Southern Mindanao, said the issuance of the CADT would serve as the tribes' legal instrument in claiming ownership of the land.

"The land, which they have been occupying for generations now can no longer be stolen from them," Agton said. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MINING continues to stir debates but miners, such as these ones in Mankayan, Benguet, cling on to hopes of the debate settling down and work starting to perk up. E.V. ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

Town readies feast to commemorate Balangiga clash

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

BALANGIGA, Eastern Samar—This coastal town is abuzz once again as it prepares for the 102nd Balangiga Encounter Day anniversary celebration on Sept. 28.

Balangiga Mayor Catalina Camenforte said this year's celebration will be highlighted by a commemorative program, wreath laying at the foot of the monument of town hero Valeriano Abanador and the reenactment of the Balangiga encounter.

The reenactment, which has been a crowd drawer, will be held at the Balangiga Elementary School grounds.

The Balangiga Encounter is considered as the Americans' "single worst defeat" during the Philippine-American War.

On that fateful Sept. 28, 1901, the native revolutionaries almost wiped out the American garrison in Balangiga.

Due to financial constraints, this year's celebration will be limited to two days, unlike in the past when it used to be a week-long festivity.

Other activities lined up for this year are the Thanksgiving Mass, civic-military parade, *subiran regatta*, fireworks display and evening socials.

Camenforte said they are still finalizing the program because they are awaiting the confirmation of invited guests.

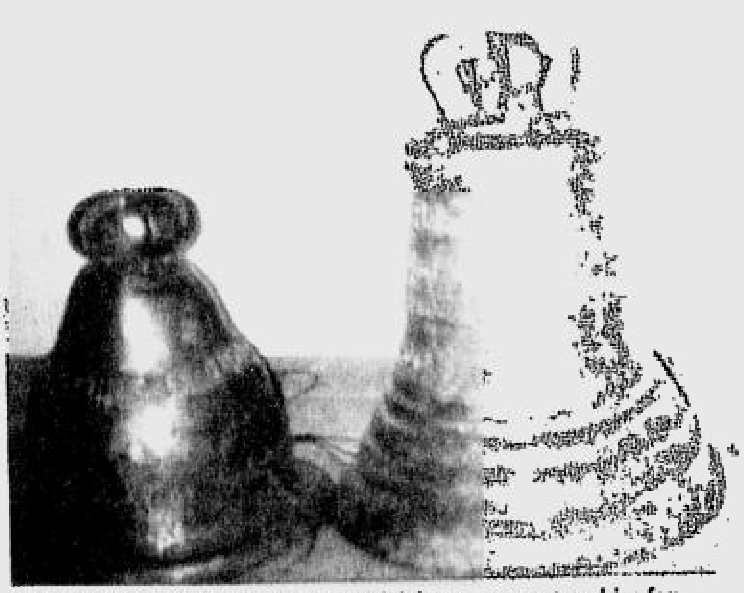
President Macapagal-Arroyo was among those invited but she begged off due to prior commitments, the mayor said.

As in the past, the people of nearby Lawaan, Giporlos and Quinapondan towns will join the celebration. These three towns were former barrios of Balangiga and their forebears were among those who joined the historic event.

An added attraction for this year's celebration is the Balangiga Encounter Monument and Library standing on one side of the town plaza, which will reportedly be inaugurated on Sunday.

With only a few days to go before the anniversary celebration, work on the monument was being rushed.

The monument depicts the scene when the signal for the raid was being given and the native revolutionaries were about to attack the American soldiers.



THE FAMOUS Balangiga Bells, which became war trophies for Americans during their occupation of the Philippines. PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Danding moves as voter from Negros to Tarlac

TARLAC CITY—Former Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. may not be ready to make an announcement yet but he is certainly getting ready for the 2004 presidential race.

Coming home to his political roots, Cojuangco registered anew as a voter in his hometown of Paniqui. Officials of the Commission on Elections here confirmed they have validated Cojuangco's transfer from Negros Occidental to Tarlac.

Cojuangco applied for voter's validation on Sept. 15 after attending the birthday bash of Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus in Concepcion town where he announced to his supporters that he has yet to decide about running for president. Lapus is a member of Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

Since 1992 when he lost his presidential bid, Cojuangco hardly involved himself in Tarlac politics. His children also established their political careers outside the province and in areas where they have established businesses.

Cojuangco's son Mark is representative of the fifth district of Pangasinan where their Northern Cement Corp. and B-Meg feed factories are located. Another son, Carlos or Charlie, is representative of the fourth district of Negros Occidental, where their agriculture business is well established.

Without his sons' political presence, Tarlac was left to Cojuangco's nephew Rep. Gilberto Teodoro Jr. of the first district.

Until the Danding for President Movement was launched here early this year, Cojuangco was hardly home.

More than a campaign slogan, the text phrase "D4U," which means "Danding for Unity," is plastered all over Tarlac.

This is seen by many both as a campaign slogan of Cojuangco as well as a pre-campaign call for Tarlac politicians to unite, Tarlac being politically polarized between Cojuangco and his estranged cousin, former Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr.

Sources from the camp of Peping, however, say the two had since mended political fences and are likely to be together in next year's polls. That the two had been in speaking terms became evident during the Busan Asian Games in October last year where their families comprised the Philippine Equestrian Team. *Jo Clemente, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Coast Guard woe in Quezon: Renting fishing boats

LUCENA CITY—The Philippine Coast Guard which patrols seas off southern Quezon up to Marinduque has long been dependent on fishermen to perform its duties.

"We don't have any patrol boat at our disposal to effect a fast response to any situation. We only depend on the generosity of the fishermen who allow us to rent their boats," Commandant Christopher Caunan, chief of the Coast Guard station in Dalahican, Quezon, told the INQUIRER.

Caunan's area of jurisdiction includes the coastal areas of Lamon Bay and Ragay Gulf in southern Quezon and Tayabas Bay to as far as Marinduque Island.

He said they have been using their fuel funds for boat rent instead.

But lately, the boat owners have been reluctant to allow their boats to be used by the Coast Guard in patrol operations.

"I can understand their predicament. The criminal elements that we're running after might do them harm while they conduct fishing activities," the official said.

"Fortunately, we have not yet encountered any armed group in the high seas," he said.

Caunan said they conduct regular patrols four times a month. "We're being hampered as time is mostly spent searching for a boat to be used," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Only 1 Macapagal in Pampanga, says GMA's half-brother

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Only one Macapagal would run for Pampanga's second congressional district in next year's elections, the half-brother of President Macapagal-Arroyo said.

"I believe that before the deadline for the filing of candidacy (for the 2004 elections), there would only be one Macapagal running for Congress in the district," Arturo Macapagal, 61, told the INQUIRER.

This indicated that either he or his nephew, Ms Macapagal's eldest son Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo, would withdraw from the congressional race.

Macapagal said before Dec. 15, he and Mikey "should know who should run for Congress."

Both of them, he said, were still consulting their *kabalens* [province mates] on their plan.

But Macapagal, president of Toyota-Pasong Tamo, clarified that he and Mikey had not reached an agreement that only one member of the family would seek the seat.

"That's my sense of how the situation will evolve," he said

Mikey, 34, said he still wanted to run for representative of the Macapagals' home district.

But at least 17 mayors in Pampanga urged him early this year to run for governor. That plan, however, did not sit well with outgoing Gov. Manuel Lapid who is grooming his eldest son, Board Member Mark Lapid, as his replacement.

Mark, 25, is president of the provincial federation of the Association of Barangay Captains.

The looming showdown of the two Macapagals has been anticipated with excitement in Guagua, Lubao, Sta. Rita, Sasmuan, Floridablanca and Porac towns, which comprise the second district.

Avid supporters of the late President Diosdado Macapagal said Arturo was the "real" Macapagal in the way he behaves and deals with people. The younger Macapagal is banking on a platform of good governance, improvement of the investment climate and job creation.

Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, Macapagal's older sister and former Pampanga vice governor, said she was supporting her brother's plan. The two are the late President's children by Purita de la Rosa who died when Arturo was only five years old.

Ms Macapagal and Diosdado Jr. are the late president's children by Dr. Evangelina Macaraeg.

But in the fight, Mikey is seen as having an edge, having held more activities and projects in the vote-rich towns of Guagua, Lubao and Floridablanca. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

PRISON WATCH
Fifteen families of Quezon City Jail inmates have taken up residence outside the facility to be near their loved ones behind bars. Rosalinda, 36, and her children have turned an abandoned vehicle into their home, where they plan to stay until her husband, Victor, is released from prison. Victor has been accused of frustrated murder.
JOAN BONDOC

NIGHT LIFE CHECK

Cops told: Spy on fellow cops going to bars

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

SOME policemen will have to go to nightclubs after all.

To make sure their fellow officers will comply with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive barring lawmen from going to girlie bars, some policemen will be deployed in clubs and bars.

The Northern Police District is forming a team of seven to 10 policemen who would randomly patrol the clubs and bars operating in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela, and in the municipality of Navotas.

Aside from going after gun-toting patrons of nightspots, team members would also have to keep an eye out for their fellow lawmen and military officials found to be violating the President's directive.

A police official said some members of the team would be in civilian clothes, while the rest would be in uniform.

But while the NPD team is still being formed and rules on deployment are being ironed out, NPD Director Marcelino Franco Jr. yesterday told the INQUIRER that a system of nightlife check on cops through "random nightly visits" is already in place since last week.

In Valenzuela, city police chief Jose Marcelo said that their nightly nightlife checks had already resulted in the arrest of two security guards who were caught carrying their service firearms in some clubs.

Marcelo said the Valenzuela Police had formed at least two teams, each composed of seven lawmen, to make the rounds of the bars and nightclubs in the city every night.

The teams would also conduct Oplan Bakal operations to round up illegal gun owners, Marcelo said.

Some sectors, particularly the wives of police officers—have expressed approval over the move to bar policemen in nightspots.

But some policemen have condemned the move, saying they too have the right to "enjoy" after work.

Club owners also protested the nightlife checks, which they said would badly affect their businesses.

Cop chief, 3 rookies fired over rob case

By Tina Santos

FOUR QUEZON City policemen, including a block station commander, have been relieved of their posts after they allegedly robbed a fish vendor in the city last week.

Central Police District Director Supt. Napoleon Castro has ordered the relief of rookie policemen P01s Jay Ortiz, Roque Jeraldez, and Radley Constantino, and their superior, Senior Insp. Michael Macapagal, all detailed with the Camachile Police Community Precinct of CPD station 3.

Castro said the lawmen were relieved based on the complaint filed by Rodolfo Arilla, a native of Pampanga, and a fish vendor at the Balintawak Market.

In his complaint, Arilla said that on Sept. 12, while he was waiting for a ride home in Balintawak, three unidentified men approached him.

Fearing that they were robbers, the vendor quickly ran and sought the help of the rookie policemen.

But instead of helping him, the accused allegedly beat up Arilla and hauled him to the station, the complaint showed.

At the station, the victim said that Macapagal forcibly took his earnings amounting to P26,000.

Arilla claimed that he knew the policemen since he regularly supplies them with free fish.

METROBRIEFS

Wounded and gone

THE POLICE on Sunday shot and wounded Gerardo Eugenio who allegedly went amuck in a bar in Cainta, Rizal. But when the lawmen went to the Pasig City General Hospital to check on Eugenio, they found the suspect had fled. Police said the barangay security men who took Eugenio and his companion, Geronimo Balubar, to the hospital failed to guard the suspects. Policemen were on patrol in Manggahan, Floodway when they heard that Eugenio was brandishing his gun at the JC Videoke and Restaurant. SP02 Carlos Atanacio said the suspect, on board a jeep, tried to flee and almost hit the lawmen who tried to block it. When the police managed to stop the jeep, Eugenio allegedly opened fire. The lawmen fired back, hitting Eugenio and Balubar. *Luige del Puerto*

Prof knew killers

WESTERN Police District homicide investigators said yesterday that Adamson University professor Arnel Bautista could have known his killers. "There was no sign of forced entry. What we saw was that his cabinets and drawers were open, a sign that the suspects were looking for something," said P03 Dennis Javier of the WPD Homicide Division, the officer in charge of the case. Bautista, 48, was found dead in his room last Sunday afternoon, inside D-10, Building 28, Phase 3, GSIS Metrohomes, Sta. Mesa, Manila. Javier said the victim might have had visitors the night he died as indicated by three empty cans of different brands of beer and several cigarette butts in an ashtray in his room. *Tarra Quismundo*

Sharp tongue injures girl

WHAT started out as a joke turned into a bloody nightmare when a 13-year-old girl stabbed another girl who was teasing her with a pair of scissors in Marikina City over the weekend. The 14-year-old victim is now recovering at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, police said. Her assailant is at large. The girls, both flower vendors at the NGI public market in Barangay Parang, were selling their wares in the market when the victim started teasing the suspect over her speech impediment. An argument ensued, leading the victim to slap the suspect. The suspect, in turn, took out the scissors and stabbed the victim twice. *Luige del Puerto*

Fishball factory robbed

FOUR armed men reportedly took P1 million before dawn yesterday from a factory that produced fishballs, kikiam and other foodstuff in Valenzuela City. Police records identified the company as the Golden Peacock Food Products at 383 F., San Diego St., Viente Reales, Valenzuela City. Factory employees told the police that at about 4 a.m., four suspects jumped over the compound's fence and immediately disarmed the two guards inside. The suspects then proceeded to the office where they took the money from secretary Karen Maquiniana, 26. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Warehouses off limits to police inspection, says WPD

By Leila Salaverria

THE WESTERN Police District yesterday washed its hands of responsibility for not detecting tons of chemicals used in manufacturing shabu stored in two warehouses recently raided in Manila.

WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod said the WPD could not have inspected the Tondo and Paco warehouses, where shabu chemicals were found on Friday and Saturday.

"Those warehouses were bonded. Only customs officials could have inspected them at once. In fact, we couldn't even inspect 40-foot cargo trucks even if we wanted to," Agunod said yesterday.

Agunod made the statement after being asked what the WPD would do to prevent other warehouses in Manila from being used as storage of shabu chemicals.

District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the chemicals were imported and were thus under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Customs.

He added that both warehouses were bonded and could not be touched easily.

Agunod pointed out that the warehouses could only be raided by the Philippine National Police if informers provided them with information about the presence of contraband. And then the police would have to get a search warrant before conducting a raid.

In the case of the two raided warehouses, Agunod said, informers approached the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the National Bureau of Investigation.

But though prevented from raiding bonded warehouses, the spokesperson said the WPD would give all the assistance to government agencies that would conduct antinarcotics searches and seizure at similar warehouses.

Scandalous display of wealth

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FORMER Sen. Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng made a spectacle of herself when she took part in a big-time cockfight derby in Naga City during the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

And a spectacle it was!

No, it was not her beauty that was the attraction but the stacks of peso bills on the tables in front of the former senator from Quezon City and the governors of Albay, Camarines Norte and Masbate.

* * *

To top it all, Coseteng had her own aides who placed bets, found matches and collected for her. These guys are called *cristos* and *casadores*.

The bets were so big they were "mind-boggling," according to the reporter who wrote the story and apparently witnessed the betting.

The politicians and the ex-senator "seemed to be throwing away so much money," the INQUIRER's Juan Escandor Jr. said.

* * *

In front of Coseteng and the Bicol governors were stacks of cash amounting to P10,000, P20,000 and P50,000. The money on the tables amounted to millions of pesos.

Escandor said, the stacks of cold cash changed hands from the losers to the winners after each cockfight.

If that was not a blatant show of wealth, then what was it?

* * *

While national officials based in Manila are cowering in fear of the lifestyle check, the Bicol governors and the ex-senator were unashamedly displaying their wealth!

When they could have fed thousands of their hungry constituents with those millions, those local officials and the ex-senator were throwing away money like they were used toilet paper!

Guilt? Shame? Those government cockfight *aficionados* don't have any.

* * *

Coseteng is no longer in the government service, so she could not be criticized for her blatant display of wealth. She could claim, "What the heck, it's my money that I gambled!"

And even if she was elected to Congress (she lost to Maite Defensor in Quezon City's 3rd district), she would not still be included in the lifestyle check as legislators are excluded from the check.

Pero, Ms Coseteng naman, kaunting delicadeza at babae ka pa naman!

* * *

But those Bicol governors who unashamedly displayed their wealth—Al Francis Bichara of Albay, Jesus Typoco Jr. of Camarines Norte and Antonio Kho of Masbate—should be investigated.

They should be made to explain where they got the millions they threw away at the Caceres Sports Arena.

They are either probably filthy rich or they got the money from the coffers of their provincial governments.

* * *

My source in the camp of Sen. Panfilo Lacson told me that the senator has been fidgety and ill-tempered lately.

The reason: the Supreme Court is reportedly about to come out with the decision on the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case. I am told that the high court will make the announcement either this week, at the earliest, or early next month.

The high court will most probably come out with its original decision as it seldom reverses itself.

* * *

The high tribunal's decision was for the case to be remanded to the lower courts that will try the case.

If that happens, warrants of arrest will be issued by the lower courts against Lacson and his co-accused in the multiple murder case.

Murder being a non-bailable offense, Lacson and his co-accused will have to stay in jail while they are being tried.

* * *

So, right now, Lacson and his media handlers are thinking of making a big show out of his impending arrest, according to my spy in the senator's camp.

They will shout "political harassment" when he gets arrested. The media handlers will say that the Supreme Court is part of the conspiracy to lessen the senator's chances in the 2004 presidential election.

Of course, those guys are dreaming as Ping Lacson has completely lost whatever chances he had of winning in 2004.

He has been exposed for his lies and his crimes.

2 women turn in abusive spouses

ENOUGH of the beatings.

Two middle-aged women yesterday finally got the courage to come out and seek the help of Marikina City policemen.

In their separate complaints, the two women said they have had enough of the beating they suffered in the hands of their husbands.

In the first case, a 39-year-old woman claimed she got a black eye when she complained to her husband, Teotimo Panta, a shoemaker, that he had brought too many friends to their home in Tumana District.

Behind bars, Panta admitted that he hit his wife. He said she disrespected him in front of his friends.

"She nagged and nagged, and I just couldn't take it anymore," Panta said. "I gave her a 'backhand.'"

But the victim said Panta would lay his hands on her every time they have an argument.

"I'm pursuing the case this time," she told the police.

In the second case, a 38-year-old woman got a terrible beating after she refused to fetch water for her husband, Ernesto de Pedro, a construction worker.

She told the police that her husband ordered her to fetch two pails of water from a nearby place. When she refused, de Pedro punched her repeatedly inside their home in Barangay Nangka.

Black and blue, she summoned her remaining strength and went straight to the police.
Luige del Puerto

Covered in her mom's blood

ZORAIDA Mastura, 25, a midwife and a former overseas worker, on Sunday was shot to death as she was breast-feeding her three-week-old daughter in their house in Purok 2, Isla Puting Bato, Manila, police said.

According to SP02 Danilo Vidad, the victim's neighbors heard a shot at around 10:30 p.m. and, when they went to Mastura's house to investigate, they found the young mother dead with a bullet wound in the cheek.

They found the daughter next to Mastura, unharmed, although her dress and washcloth were covered with her mother's blood, Vidad said.

Police found a slug from a .45-caliber firearm in her house.

Police learned from the neighbors that the woman's husband was in General Santos City at the time of the shooting. *Leila Salaverria*

Letran officials hit with P30-M fine go to SC

By Tina Santos

OFFICIALS of the Collegio San Juan de Letran have gone to the Supreme Court to file administrative charges against a Caloocan City judge who had ordered the officials to pay a P30-million fine.

Regional Trial Court Branch 131 Judge Antonio Fineza had imposed the fine on Fathers Edwin Lao, OP; Letran rector, and Rhommel Hernandez, OP; Professor Albert Rosarda and high school principal Teresa Suratos for expelling a senior student allegedly involved in a fraternity.

Eugene and Angelita Go, parents of Emerson Chester Kim Go, filed a complaint against the school for allegedly dismissing their son two months before the end of the school year.

School officials tagged Kim as among the 29 high school students who joined the Tau Gamma and Scout Royal Brotherhood fraternities. Letran has banned both fraternities from campus, according to school officials.

But according to Judge Fineza, the school officials expelled Kim based on the statement of Kim's fellow students.

Fineza said there was no concrete basis for the school officials' decision.

But on Sept. 16, the corporate board of Letran filed a 14-page complaint accusing Fineza of "knowingly rendering a manifestly unjust judgement and ignorance of the law."

The school officials have also announced their intention to file criminal charges against the judge.

According to documents obtained by the INQUIRER, Letran officials said Fineza was "manifestly unjust" when he awarded damages equivalent to more than "400 percent of what the complainants sought."

Fineza had actually ordered the respondents to pay P39,424,800, not including the cost of litigation.

The legal counsel also claimed that Fineza had prejudged the case, entertaining an "erroneous pre-conceived notion" that Kim was dismissed when evidence on record showed that he was merely suspended from Jan. 21, 2003 until Feb. 18 of the same year.

It was gathered that 29 students admitted they were fraternity members, 19 of whom, including Kim, were graduating seniors. Only Go reportedly insisted he was not a member of the fraternity despite testimonies from other students.

All the students, except for two who failed, graduated last April. Kim reportedly failed the exam and was reported to have been given a PEP test, a qualifying exam given by the Department of Education to those who were unable to graduate.

With the charges, Fineza is facing dismissal from service and forfeiture of his retirement benefits.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

FOUR DIGIT
9 0 7 2
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
8 5 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45
7 14 16 39 40 42

Cops pay for apprehending chief's friends

By Leila B. Salaverria

HONESTY pays. And for some traffic policemen in Manila, they wish they would not be made to pay for doing their jobs honestly.

Yesterday, the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, Inc. (MFBAI) appealed for a stop to police officials intervening or acting as "padrinos" to traffic violators.

Some police officials order traffic policemen to return confiscated licenses without any justifiable reason, the paper titled "The MBFAI Position on the Present Police System in the Country and its Implications" said.

In an interview, SPO2 Antonio Emmanuel, MFBAI spokesperson and himself a traffic policeman, disclosed that in some cases lawmen were made to pay for fines due.

"Once a ticket is issued, it cannot just be thrown away because tickets are audited," Emmanuel said.

He explained that in such cases, the policeman who issued the traffic ticket for the returned license was made to fall in line at the MMDA (Metro Manila Development Authority) and pay the corresponding fine using their own money.

"As a consequence, policemen conducting arrests think twice before doing their job," the paper said.

This becomes especially true when an apprehended traffic violator drops the names of ranking police and government officials.

The brotherhood presented the paper to Atty. Emilio Salumbides, director of the National Police Commission for National Capital Region, who met with them recently.

Tongue lashing

Another form of punishment levied on traffic policemen who make the "mistake" of apprehending a well-connected motorist is the abrupt transfer of assignment.

"Once, a colleague was transferred to another district the day after he issued a ticket to a driver who knew high-ranking police officers," he said.

Other lawmen get a tongue-lashing from their superiors.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said he knew of instances where apprehended motorists call up their "padrinos" on their cellphones even before the police or the traffic enforcer has a chance to issue the ticket.

He said the "padrinos" talk to the traffic enforcers and persuade them not to issue a ticket to the motorist.

Vergel de Dios confirmed that it would be hard for a ticket to be recalled once it had been issued. The ticket must be paid, he stressed.

Meanwhile, the head of the WPD's Traffic Enforcement Group, Sr. Supt. Gil de Castro, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

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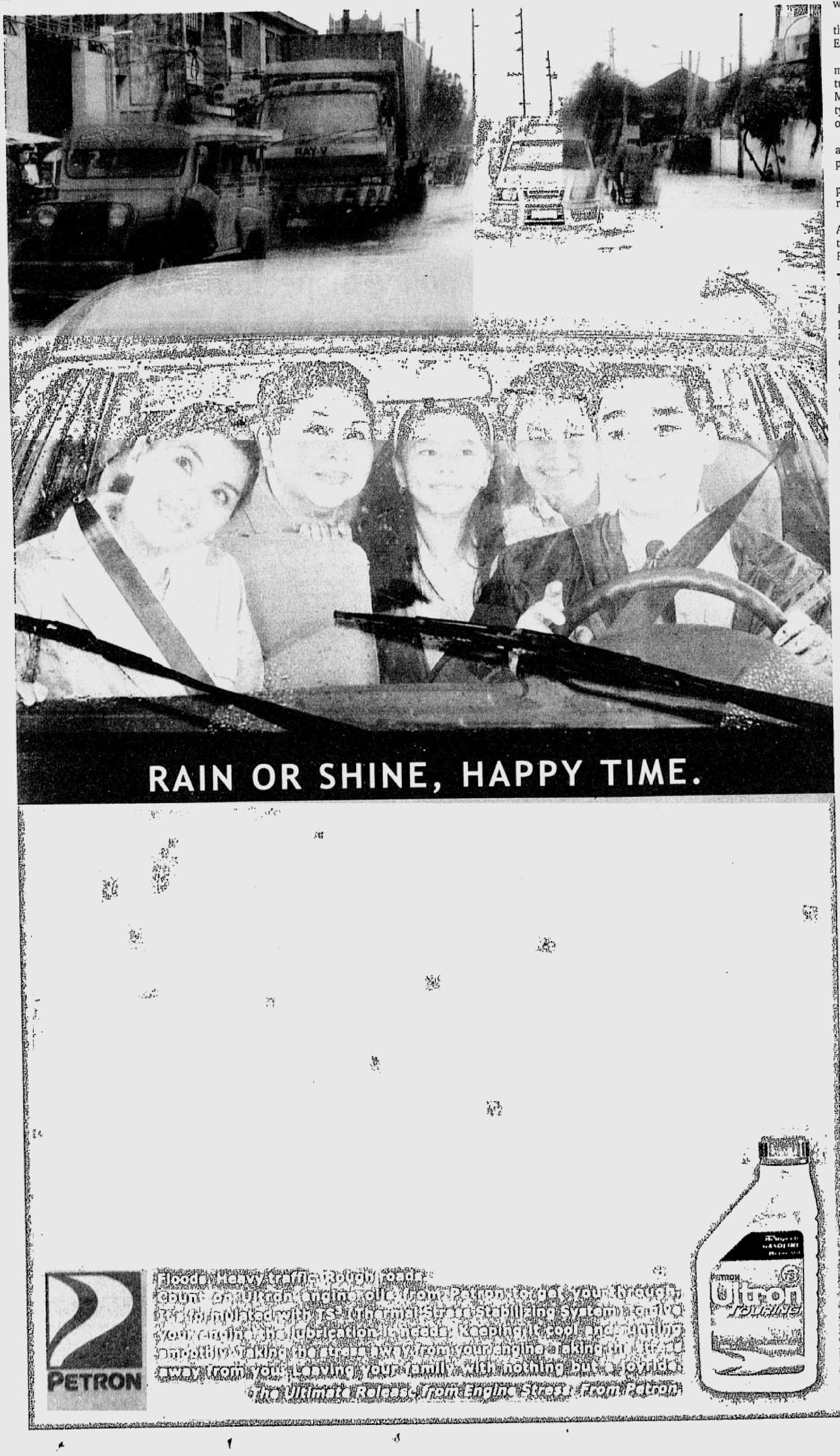
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Thieves take guns, drugs from court

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

BURGLARS stole guns, drugs and cash from a Caloocan City Regional Trial Court branch and left no trace for police to track them down.

Lawyer Edilbert Quilao, branch clerk of RTC Branch 123, discovered the break-in when he reported for work at 7:50 a.m. yesterday and found the court stockroom in disarray.

An inventory later revealed that two M-16 assault rifles, about P15,000 cash and a number of sachets containing shabu were missing.

The missing items were evidence presented for some of the cases being heard by the court.

The police said not less than two suspects broke into the courtroom located at the ground floor of the Aurelio Building on M.H. del Pilar Street.

Investigators believe the robbery took place between Friday night and early Monday morning.

Officer on case P03 Feliciano Almojuela Jr. told the INQUIRERthat the suspects probably entered through the back door of the building since a security guard was manning the main entrance.

However, police found no sign of forced entry and neither fingerprints nor footprints at the back door.

Once inside the building, the suspects destroyed a small portion of Branch 123's rusty steel accordion door and crept inside the office, Almojuela added.

However, the stockroom's door, which was inside the branch office, was not forcibly opened.

Almojuela said the suspects could have had sophisticated tools to turn the door knob or they had a duplicate key.

Aside from the evidence room, the suspects also went inside the office of Judge Edmundo Acuña, but nothing was apparently taken from there.

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Cantrell shot good, says PBA /A20

■ US, China XIs score /A21

Gold double for Sun; Han rips record

By Roy Luarca

SUN Yingjie became the first double gold medalist and Han Yucheng broke a meet record as China continued to assert its supremacy in the 15th Asian Athletics Championships at the Rizal track and field stadium yesterday.

	G	S	B	Total
China	13	7	6	26
Uzbekistan	2	1	2	5
K'zakhstan	2	1	2	5
Qatar	2	1	0	3
Kuwait	2	0	0	2
Japan	1	8	6	15
Bahrain	1	1	0	2
Kyrgyśtan	1	0	0	1
Myanmar	1	0	0	1
Vietnam	1	0	0	1
India	0	2	2	4
S. Arabia	0	1	1	2
C. Taipei	0	1	1	2
Korea	0	1	0	1
Iran	0	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	1
Thailand	0	0	2	2
Philippines	0	0	2	2
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	0	1	1

The 24-year-old Sun, a law graduate from Beijing, topped the women's 5,000-meter run with a time of 15:48.42, matching her earlier triumph in the 10,000m on Saturday and duplicating her twin-gold effort in the same events in last year's Busan Asian Games.

"I'm not feeling too well, so I didn't go for records," said Sun, bronze medalist in the World Championship last month in Paris.

Making good in his first stint abroad, Han clocked 1 hour, 21 minutes and 11.3 seconds in the 20-km walk to rip the 3As mark of 1:23:58.80 set by compatriot Li Migcal in the 1996 Jakarta edition.

"Our year-round training and hard work paid off," said Han, a reedy 5-foot-9 from Liaoning. "I'm ranked only fourth in this event back home so this is a big accomplishment."

Coupled with Gu Yuan's triumph in the women's hammer throw and Rongxiang in the men's javelin throw, the Chinese have already captured 13 golds, exceeding their 10-gold output in the Colombo 3As last year.

Gu cleared 70.78m while Rongxiang won with a throw of 79.25m.

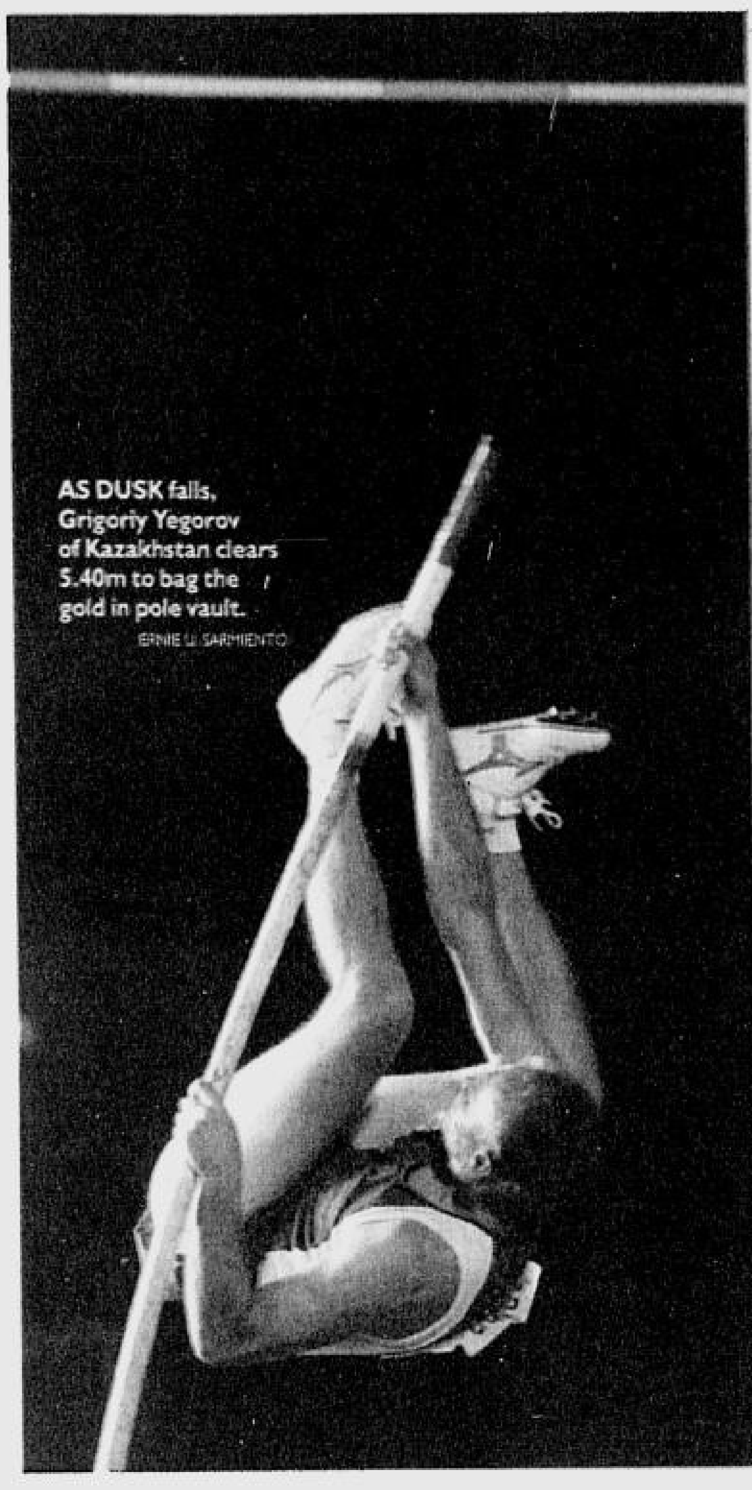
Chinese head coach Kan Fulan had earlier predicted that his wards would win from 11-13 golds, with the bulk coming from the distaff side owing to the presence of crack bets from the former Soviet republics and the Middle East.

So overpowering was China that its golden output was still one victory more than the combined total of golds produced by nine countries in the 41-nation event. Uzbekistan, Qatar and Kuwait shared second with two golds each. The Chinese also have 7 silvers and 6 bronzes.

Kazuyoshi Ishikawa ruled the men's triple jump to hand Japan its first gold after six silvers and six bronzes. The 21-year-old Ishikawa cleared 16.72m, to surpass his personal best of 16.64m and relegate Chinese Gu Junjie (16.68m) and Wu Ji (16.67m) to the silver and bronze, respectively.

Kazakhstan also snared its first gold through Grigoriy Yegorov in the men's pole vault. Yegorov cleared 5.40m to beat

GOLD/ A20


AS DUSK falls, Grigoriy Yegorov of Kazakhstan clears 5.40m to bag the gold in pole vault.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Raiders vs Broncos; 9 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); ESPN—Oakland meets Denver in this AFC battle.

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Game-Rockets vs Spurs, Game 6, 1995 Western Finals; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports—Witness the battle of big men Hakeem Olajuwon and 1995 MVP David Robinson as Houston eliminates San Antonio.

NBA Summer League-Knicks vs Suns; 11 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Rookies and free agents take center stage as New York faces Phoenix in this summer encounter.

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Ateneo-La Salle juniors collide in Final 4, too

By Dennis U. Eroa

ADAMSON tripped Ateneo, 71-58, to gain the top spot even as Santo Tomas ambushed University of the East, 87-64, to gain the fourth and last seat in the Final Four of the UAAP junior basketball tournament last Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Power-playing Jomar Canuday led a balanced Adamson attack with 21 points against Ateneo, which played without its usual intensity.

Both the Baby Falcons and the Eaglets will enjoy twice-to-beat advantages in the semis which start tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum. They ended the double-round eliminations with 10-2 records.

Adamson meets Santo Tomas, while Ateneo clashes with arch rival La Salle-Zobel in the Final Four pairings.

Ken Barracoso top-scored for the Eaglets with 14 but failed to get support from his teammates.

Canuday, Gener Pandaan and William Johnston grabbed 35 boards as the Baby Falcons outrebounded the Eaglets, 62-37.

With starters Elmer de la Cruz, Joreen Chua and Julius Porlaje slowed down by injuries they suffered in the physical game, the Pages crumbled against the spirited Baby Tigers.

At halftime, Santo Tomas, bannered by Jay Leyga and Otto Franco, was ahead, 50-29.

UE and UST forged a playoff for the fourth slot in the Final Four after finishing with identical 6-6 slates.

Scores:

First Game (Jrs)

ADAMSON 71—Canuday 21, Espina 11, Johnston 8, Racho 6, Amparado 6, Balila 5, Bautista 3, Opelac 1, Valerio 0, Edaño 0, Arboleda 0.

ATENEO 58—Barracoso 14, Tuazon 8, Reyes 8, Nadal 8, Dizon 7, Medina 4, Chiu 4, Manlapaz 3, Tingson 2, Santos 0, Perez 0.

Quarters: 11-22, 34-38, 55-48, 71-58

Second Game (Jrs)

UST 87—Leyga 18, Franco 13, Basa 13, Flores A 9, Poblete 9, Panahon 8, Badua 7, Mejica 4, De la Cruz 2, Crisostomo 2, Santos 2, Flores 0.

UE 64—Zamar 18, Porlaje 12, Tungcul 9, Sumalinog 7, Juliane 7, De la Cruz 5, Ogalino 2, Mendoza 2, Chua 2, Valerio 0, Simbulan 0.

Quarters: 19-12, 50-29, 67-42

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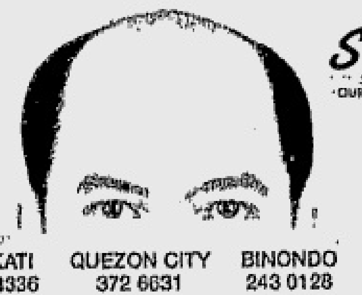

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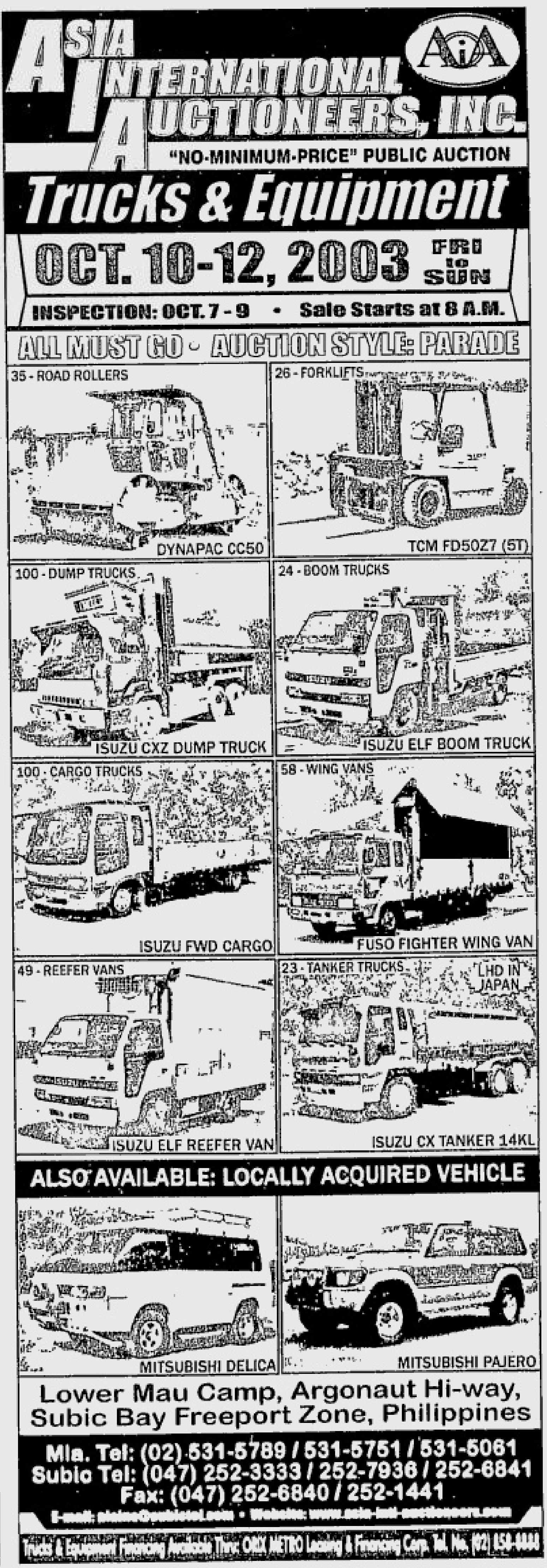
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2 Talk 'N Text reserves boost RP quintet to ABC

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE NATIONAL men's basketball team left yesterday for the 22nd ABC Championship in Harbin, China with two PBA reinforcements courtesy of Talk N Text team owner Manny Pangilinan.

Center Chris Nicdao and playmaker Jonathan de Guzman, both in the reserve list of the Phone Pals, were allowed by Pangilinan to beef up the national quintet hard hit by the withdrawal of mainstays Gary David, Ervin Sotto and Ranidel de Ocampo.

Under pressure from their mother teams, the three abandoned the RP five competing in the regional tournament which will select Asia's representative to the 2004 Athens Olympics Sept. 23-Oct. 2.

The country is bracketed with Qatar, Japan, and Jordan. China, led by NBA star Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets, is favored to keep its crown.

"We wish to extend our sincere thanks for the support you have given the Basketball Association of the Philippines by lending two of your players to the RP-Cebuana Lhuillier team," said BAP secretary general Graham Lim in a letter of thanks to Pangilinan.

Lim had earlier requested PBA Commissioner Noli Eala to lend to the RP five FedEx stars Ren-Ren Ritualo, Yancy de Ocampo and Omanzie Rodriguez, Red Bull's Rysal Castro and Cyrus Baguio and Coke's Gilbert Lao.

But Eala said PBA rules disallow the lending of players in the active roster while the season is ongoing. Ritualo, De Ocampo, Baguio and Rodriguez are currently in the active list of their respective teams.

Eala also pointed out that the PBA's commitment to the national team, as agreed upon by the board, is only with the Asian Games campaign.

Coach Aric del Rosario welcomed the addition of Nicdao and De Guzman.

"Nicdao will give us added muscle at the shaded lane, while De Guzman will be able to help our playmakers (Dennis) Madrid and (Celino) Cruz," Del Rosario said. Also added to the team is forward Romar Menor.

Del Rosario, also a member of the coaching staff of the TNT team, said the Filipinos only hope to improve their 11th place two years ago, adding the most important thing was to give them experience for their title-retention campaign in the SEA Games in Vietnam this December.

Already qualified for Athens are Lithuania, Spain and Italy from Europe.

Host Greece and Euro championship titleholder are automatically qualified.

Australia and new Zealand advanced from the Oceania, US, Argentina and Puerto Rico made it from the Tournament of Americas, while Angola, for the fourth consecutive time, will carry the colors of Africa.

Cantrell shot good, says PBA

By June Navarro

THE PBA dumped the protest of Purefoods yesterday and upheld the buzzer-beating jumper by Damien Cantrell that lifted the Talk N Text Phone Pals to an 82-80 victory over the TJ Hotdogs last week.

Technical chief Perry Martinez said that, after a thorough review of the tapes, the league found no merit to theHotdogs' complaint.

"We saw the tapes and even simulated the last play several times. On both reviews, there were no inconsistencies on the part of the table officials," said Martinez.

Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio had contended that the remaining eighth-tenths of a second had run out when Cantrell caught the inbounds pass and flicked the game-clinching jumper.

The table officials ruled otherwise, however.

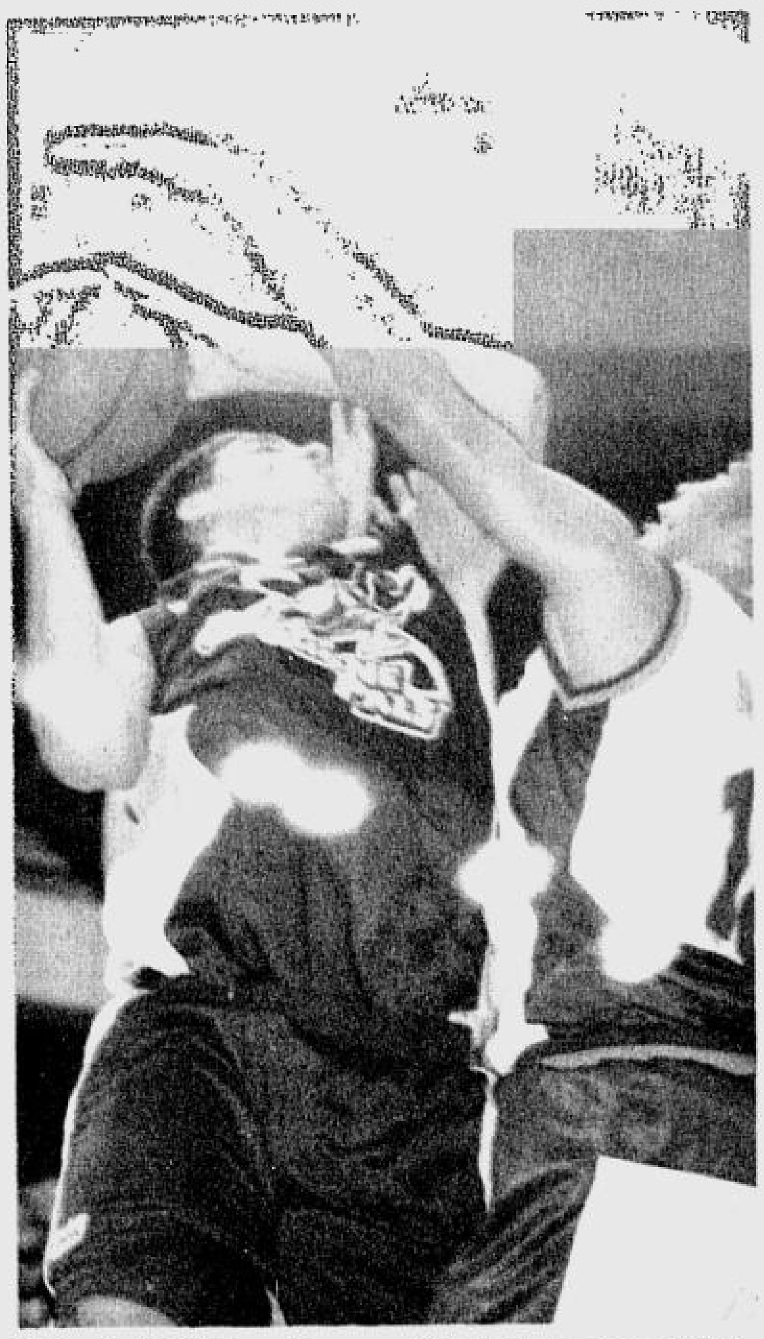
Gregorio said the team accepts the decision, adding they filed the protest because "we owe it to the fans and the players who played with a lot of effort."

The Hotdogs said they reviewed the disputed play using a frame-by-frame video to authenticate their complaint, but Martinez rejected this.

"In this situation, you don't use a frame-by-frame video to review the tape because by doing so, it naturally affects the running of the clock," said Martinez, who also received the testimonies of the table officials to solidify the league's decision.

Meanwhile, Rene "Bong" Hawkins has formally joined the Coca-Cola Tigers after signing a four-conference contract worth at least P2.3 million.

The FedEx Express had unconditionally released Hawkins to the Tigers to end a year-long contract dispute.



PBA technical officials say there was still eighth-tenths of a second left when Talk 'N Text import Cantrell released his shot. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SPORTSWATCH

Ateneo XI bags under-14 crown

ATENEO lived up to expectations last Sunday by whipping Colegio San Agustin, 5-2, to bag the NCR crown in the Red Ribbon Bakeshop Under-14 Football Festival at the Ateneo field in Quezon City. Paco Liganor struck twice—in the 45th and 65th minutes—to spark Ateneo's victory in the last event in the Red Ribbon Bakeshop-sponsored soccerfest. Liganor was eventually named the tournament's most valuable player. Xavier School banked on Amado Fores' hat-trick to beat Southridge, 4-1, and clinch third place.

PUP netters all-students champs

POLYTECHNIC University edged La Salle, 2-1, over the weekend to retain its men's team crown in the 2003 Milo All-Students Tennis Championships at the Philam Homes clay courts. Mario Sabas drew first blood for PUP with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Nico Faller, before the La Salle pair of Yannick Guba and Irwin de Guzman leveled the count at 1-all with a 6-3, 6-7, 6-0 win over Rocky Paglalunan and Edilbert Anasta in the doubles. Paglalunan then defeated Guba 6-4, 2-1 (retired) to clinch the team title for PUP in the netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids. In the women's team final, La Salle ended the four-year reign of St. Benilde, 2-0.

Negros High, Silliman in rousing wins

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental High and Silliman University posted lopsided triumphs last weekend to emerge as top favorites in the Negros Oriental Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament at the Silliman ballfield here. Giovanni Mamac knocked in two goals as NOHS plastered Sibulan Municipal High, 5-0, while Nikko Buenavista unloaded four markers as former national champion Silliman crushed Dumaguete Science High, 6-0. Bais High split its twin assignments, routing St. Paul High, 5-1, Saturday but losing to San Miguel Community High, 2-3, the following day. James Sinco and Luisito Cabual engineered Bais' triumph by scoring three and two goals, respectively.

LSGH, San Beda rule Milo cagefest

LA SALLE Greenhills and San Beda hurdled their respective Ateneo rivals last Sunday to retain the Milo BEST SBP/Passerele basketball championships at the Loyola Center in Quezon City. The La Sallians ousteadied the Ateneans in the homestretch to pull out a 57-48 victory in the SBP finals. The Bedans banked on the fiery 37-point performance of Carlos Hermida Jr. to rip Ateneo, 92-74, in the Passerelle finals. Xavier School downed De La Salle Zobel, 52-47, and La Salle Greenhills routed University of Santo Tomas, 91-63, last Saturday to finish third in the SBP and Passerele divisions, respectively. LSGH's Eduardo Aytona and San Beda's Carlos Hermida were named the tournament's most valuable players. The sportsmanship award went to Lourdes School-QC (SBP) and Lourdes School-Mandaluyong and DLSZ (Passerelle). Veteran coach Franz Pumaren and Talk N Text star Bong Ravena were special guests during the finals.

Isada-Hermoso show vintage form

THE VETERAN duo of Vip Isada and Robbie Hermoso showed at the Blaze Rallye of Subic last Sunday that they are still the team to beat on the national rallye scene. Isada and Hermoso, driving for Team Blaze, ruled four of the six special stages in the 70-km rally by pulling off a total time of 38.02. Ten-time national rally driver champion Isada was clearly at home in the all-tarmac track as he outpaced the higher-powered cars in his Honda Civic VTEX. Ramon Santiago and Bing Ibaviosa placed second with a time of 38.27 despite a flat tire in special stage 2. Jun Diaz and Melissa Santiago, in a Toyota Levin, settled for the third podium spot with a time of 39.06 minutes. Current series leaders Ivan Isada and navigator Art Guevara, of Team Ultron, placed fourth but managed to maintain the lead in the races for the national driver and overall championships.

PSA Forum tackles boxing, beach volley

AMATEUR and professional boxing highlights tomorrow's session of the PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion. Manny Lopez, president of the national boxing association, takes care of the amateur stuff while the pro side will have promoter Bebot Elorde and the protagonists in his upcoming fight card topbilled by former world champion Malcolm Tuñacao and Ernesto Rubillar against Indonesia's Ali Rohmad and Iwan Key, respectively. Also guesting in the public sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor are organizer Tisha Abundo and four of the participants (in their Speedo outfit) in the third leg of the Petron-PSA ladies beach volleyball tournament.

Helpless Peña rues SMB woes

PEÑA: Depressed

DORIAN Peña is so depressed these days that watching basketball on television has become the least of his favorites.

Especially when the San Miguel Beermen are playing.

"This has become the most stressful year of my life. For one, our team is now at the bottom of the standings and I can't do anything about it," said the 6-foot-8 San Miguel Beer pivotman.

The Beermen are still winless after five games in the ongoing Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference.

Peña is serving an indefinite suspension after testing positive for prohibited drugs four months ago. PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said Peña's case is up for review but has given no definite date for his reinstatement.

A reliable source, however, said Peña would be donning the San Miguel Beer jersey as early as next month.

Citing humanitarian reasons, SMB team manager Robert Non said he hopes Peña gets to play again soon.

"Dorian has been receiving no salary since May and it's affecting his family's source of livelihood. The longer Dorian's case drags on, the longer his family suffers," said Non.

Non added San Miguel had already appealed Peña's case twice last month.

Dorian went through a total of 10 tests from different testing clinics after he flunked the drug test and the results were all negative," said Non.

The SMB official said Peña's,positive test result during the PBA's mandatory drug testing in May was triggered by an overdose of food supplement the brawny slotman used to take before every game.

June Navarro

Gold double . . .

From page A19

Japanese Satoru Yasuda (5.30m).

After producing two bronzes Sunday, courtesy of Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito in the women's triple jump and Eduardo "Vertek" Buenavista in the men's 10,000m, the Filipinos went silent again yesterday.

If any consolation, Sean Guevarra and Jimar Aing qualified for the finals of the men's high jump and 200m, respectively.

Guevarra, the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games titlist, placed sixth in the qualifying with a leap of 2.08m. Aing landed fourth in the first qualifying heat with a clocking of 21.50.

They will join long jumper Joebert Delicano and the men's 4x100m (Henry Dagmil, Arnold Villarube, Alex Gabito, Jimar Aing) in today's concluding events of the four-day, 43-gold tournament.

Also to be disputed are the golds in the women's 20-km walk, decathlon, men and women 400m hurdles, men and women 200m, men and women 800m, men's shot put, women's javelin throw and the women's 4x100m relay.

adidas
61
JAPAN
250

FINE FORM: Sun Yingjie (far left) of China on her way to the gold in the women's 5,000m; Japan's Takanori Sugibayashi rules the triple jump. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

AGAINST ALL ODDS
26th
Philippine Airlines
InterSports

PAL INTERSPORTS: Bong Arguelles (fourth from left), president of host club Negros Executives, hoists the PAL Trophy symbolizing overall supremacy in the recent 26th Philippine Airlines Intersports Tournament. With Arguelles are Intersports chair Domingo Duerme Jr., PAL country manager Enrique Javier, PAL executive vice president Henry So Uy and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella. Negros won the golf and billiards events. Caballeros de Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro executives placed second and third, respectively.

It's in the heart

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHAT is victory again?

Victory is when you feel you've done your best. Even if you didn't finish first, you'd still feel victorious because you knew you've given it your best shot. Finishing third, or even last, is a feat that should not mean you are not worthy of the crowd's respect. Do you know that one of the most heartily applauded athletes in the Olympiad is the last placer in the marathon?

Imagine a hundred thousand people waiting anxiously for the last competitor in the Olympic Games to enter the stadium. That competitor is none other than the marathon man. Until and after he has crossed the finish line, the closing ceremonies of the Olympiad will not begin. He is that important. And he is the last of the Olympiad's list of last placers.

No, he would not be speeding into the stadium oval like a bullet train, the way the winner of the century dash would.

No, he would not be entering the stadium oval with arms raised up high in a victorious hurrah.

And no, he would not be streaking into the stadium oval with gigantic strides like a conquering hero coming down from Mt. Everest.

Most likely, he'd be virtually crawling into the stadium oval, shoulders sagging if not already sagged like breasts commonly belonging to an overweight matron.

Most likely, he'd be plodding on like a war straggler, not exactly knowing if he had entered the correct gate leading to the finish line of the 42.195km race (26 miles 385 yards).

Most likely, he'd be wearing that disfigured, if not tortured, face, tongue sticking out the way a man dying of thirst in the desert would.

And yet, the minute he enters the stadium, the crowd would stand up as one, erupt as one, and their applause would become the loudest of all.

There is no drama so heart-melting than the sight of the marathon man struggling to cross the finish line—even if it meant finishing last.

There is no human sacrifice in sports as telling as the marathon man's desire to finish the struggle at all costs—even if it meant seeing his name last in the scoreboard.

I have seen it happen on TV when I wasn't a sportswriter yet.

I have seen it happen live when I finally got to cover my full-length Olympiad in 2000 in Sydney. The thrill of the spectacle—hearing the roar of the crowd that I found myself so joyously a part of—was truly beyond compare, beyond forgetting.

And this I discovered. I have yet to see an Olympic marathon in modern Olympic history end with more than one runner finishing the race together. So tough is the marathon that it does not only separate the boys from the men; it is also a contest that so shockingly tells us no two humans have the same strength to finish the race either equal first or equal last.

And so to the Filipinos competing in the 15th Asian Athletics Championship who didn't finish first—from bronze medalists Eduardo `` Vertek" Buenavista (10,000m) and Lerma Balaultan-Gabito (long jump) to the non-medalists—feel sad but never sulk, please. You may not have finished ahead of the pack but that does not mean you don't have our applause. You have it, and will continue to have it—uncompromisingly. Against the best from 41 Asian nations led by world power China, you are our best, will be our best, no matter the outcome.

At times, if not most of the time, victory is in the heart.

***

FASTBREAK. Undersecretary Al Fernandez of the Department of Interior and Local Government will fly to Los Angeles on Friday, Sept. 26, to speak before 48 Filipino associations bunched under an umbrella organization composed of Pangasinan residents in Southern California. Bing de la Vega and Gil Mislang will spearhead the event where Usec Fernandez will dwell mainly on the Filipinos' new right to suffrage under the recently passed Absentee Voting Law. Bon voyage, Buloy Al. I know the job at hand is chicken feed to you—as always.

WORLD CUP

US. China XIs score

NEW YORK—The United States showed they are in no mood to relinquish their status as women's world champions as they overcame Sweden, 3-1, in their first match of the 2003 World Cup in Washington on Sunday.

However, the victory was tinged with some sadness when Brandi Chastain, the player who scored the winning penalty kick in their 1999 triumph, suffered a broken foot during the Group A match and is battling to recover for the rest of the tournament.

China, defeated in the final four years ago and likely to challenge the US strongly again this year, began their campaign with a dour 1-0 win over Ghana in the last match of the day.

But they were made to work hard by their Group D rivals after Sun Wen had headed the only goal of the game after 29 minutes.

US team officials said Chastain had fractured the third metatarsal bone in her right foot and would miss the remaining two group games, against Nigeria on Thursday and North Korea on September 28.

The 35-year-old defender's fitness will be re-evaluated ahead of the quarterfinals, should the US reach them.

Without Chastain, coach April Heinrichs' side had to withstand a spirited fightback from Sweden, ranked fifth in the world.

AUSTRALIA's Kelly Golebiowski (7) walks away while the Russian team celebrates in the background. AP

But with forward Mia Hamm providing assists for all three goals in front of 35,000 spectators, the US was always one step ahead of the Europeans and can look forward with relish to another successful campaign.

Hamm set up Kristine Lilly for the hosts' first after 27 minutes, a stunning left foot strike from the edge of the area.

In the 36th minute Cindy Parlow headed the US's second and after Victoria Svensson had pulled one back for Sweden 13 minutes after the halftime break, Shannon Boxx eased American nerves with their third on 78 minutes.

The US are joint top of Group A alongside North Korea, who had a superior goal difference courtesy of their 3-0 win over Nigeria on Saturday.

Brazil also made their 2003 World Cup bow on Sunday, with striker Katia netting twice in a 3-0 Group B victory over South Korea.

Marta opened the scoring from the penalty spot after 14 minutes in Washington.

In Group D, Russia snatched a dramatic 2-1 win over Australia in Carson, California.

Kelly Golebiowski gave Australia a surprise 38th minute lead but just moments later, Australian defender Dianne Alagich's own goal leveled for Russia.

Elena Fomina missed a second half penalty but made amends in the 89th minute. *Reuters*

Salazar, Gamo reach Xinjiang boxing finals

XINJIANG, China—Lightflyweight Lhyven Salazar and bantamweight Ferdie Gamo swept into the finals Sunday, assuring the RP Revicon team of at least two silver medals in the 2003 Xinjiang International boxing championships here.

Salazar outclassed Pakistan's Naumar Karim, 27-12, and thus avenged a bitter loss by teammate Violito Payla to the same Pakistani in the quarterfinals of the Busan Asian Games last year when Karim was then campaigning in the heavier flyweight class and went on to capture the silver medal.

Gamo advanced without throwing a punch after Li Yang of Beijing (China) was barred from further action due to injury and was ruled loser by default.

The Filipinos, sent here by the Philippine Sports Commission-Pacific Heights, Accel and Family Rubbing Alcohol under the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) training program for the coming Southeast Asian Games in December and the Olympic qualifying tournament in the Philippines in January next year, go for the gold against members of the Chinese national squad on Monday night.

Salazar will face Zao Shiming in the first bout while Gamo takes on Zhang Yizheng in the third match of the 11-nation, 14-team tournament.

Parica finishes 2nd

LEGENDARY Filipino pool player Jose "Amang" Parica finished second in the 28th US Open 9-ball championship, bowing to American veteran Jeremy Jones, 11-4, in the final Sunday night in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The La Puente, California-based Parica earlier beat another American, Keith "The Earthquake" McCready, 11-8, in a tense semifinal match to arrange the winner-take-all showdown with Jones.

Parica, the 1978 Japan International All-around champion, rallied from an early 0-2 deficit against Jones to knot the count after the fourth rack.

Parica, who defeated compatriot Efren "Bata" Reyes to rule the recent Pechauer 9-ball event in Hollywood, California, pocketed $15,000 for his runner-up finish. Jones took the lion's purse of $30,000.

Reyes tied for 7th place with American Johnny Archer and won $3,500. *With a report from Marlon Bernardino*

Australia, Spain forge final

HEWITT: Big rally

LONDON—Spain will meet Australia in the Davis Cup final after both teams overcame stiff opposition to win their semifinal ties, 3-2, Sunday.

Lleyton Hewitt rallied from two sets down to beat Wimbledon champion Roger Federer, 5-7, 2-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5, 6-1, and give 1999 champion Australia a decisive 3-1 lead in the best-of-five tie against Switzerland.

Carlos Moya beat Gaston Gaudio, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2, in the final rubber of Spain's semifinal against Argentina to seal the win for the 2000 champion after the South Americans came back from 2-0 down.

Australia will play the Nov. 28-30 final at home in Melbourne.

In Malaga, Moya needed only seven games to take the first set against a surprisingly listless Gaudio, who entered the tie with a Davis Cup record of 13-1. He lost both matches against Spain.

The second and third sets lasted longer but Moya was still in control.

"I always dreamed of this," said a jubilant Moya, the only one in the squad who didn't play on the team that won the 2000 Davis Cup final against Australia.

In Sunday's first match, Agustin Calleri upset world No.1 Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-4, 7-5, 6-1, to level the tie at 2-2 after also anchoring the Argentine team to victory in Saturday's doubles. *AP*

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SEPTEMBER 2003

Arcilla whips Victorino, takes 7th straight title

ARCILLA

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Top seed Johnny Arcilla of the Philippine Air Force defeated third seed Joseph Victorino of Manila Southwoods, 6-1, 6-4, yesterday to capture the men's singles title in the P1 million Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit at the Xavier Sports and Country Club court here.

It was the seventh straight singles title for the 23-year-old Arcilla, who will banner the Philippine campaign in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games this December.

Arcilla also won the Manila Polo Club and Subic legs of this circuit sanctioned by Philta and supported by Accel Sports, Key Printing, Le Soleil de Boracay, Oceanic 1911, All Care Insurance, Fiesta Brands, O2 Plus and Dunlop Slazenger.

Arcilla earned P30,000 while Victorino got P15,000. The two are scheduled to compete in the Thailand Futures in November as part of their SEAG training.

Meanwhile, top seeds Arcilla and Michael Mora III downed fourth seeds Alexander Lazaro and Rolando Ruel Jr., 6-2, 6-3, to win their fourth doubles title this year.

Lewis rallies with 62 to win by 2

FARMINGTON, Pennsylvania—Tour veteran J.L. Lewis charged through the field with a final round 10-under-par 62 on Sunday to win the Pennsylvania Classic by two strokes.

The 43-year-old Kansas native finished at 22-under 266, a course record at Mystic Rock Golf Course.

Frank Lickliter II, Tim Petrovic and Stuart Appleby finished in a tie for second on 268.

In Cologne, overnight leader KJ Choi of South Korea shot a 67 (262) to win the German Masters on his debut in a regular European Tour event on Sunday. *Reuters, AFP*

SEPAK TAKRAW

Hosts stamp class

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Teams from host Puerto Princesa lost no time making their presence felt with well-deserved victories Sunday night in the 2003 National Open Men's and Women's Sepak Takraw and in the 21-under tournament at the Dr. Higenio Mendoza Park here.

Defending women's open champion Puerto Princesa City-A (PPC-A), with Gelyn Evora, Irene Apdon and Rhea Padrigo heading the charge, outlasted Cavite, 21-18, 14-21, 15-13.

Not to be outdone, PPC-B whipped Bulacan, 21-10, 21-8.

In the 21-under action, PPC-B routed Palawan State University-B, 21-12, 21-7, and PPC-C survived Lubao (Pampanga), 21-17, 17-21, 15-12.

PSU-A defeated the National Capital Region, 21-17, 16-21, 15-7, in the other 21-under duel in this weeklong tournament principally backed by Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Muntinlupa City joined the opening-day winners of the event, organized by the Philippine Amateur Sepak Takraw Association headed by Gen. Mario Tanchanco. The squad stopped Lubao (Pampanga), 17-21, 21-16, 16-14, in the women's contest.

Instead of sec-gen, NAAP ousts prexy

AN ATTEMPT to remove longtime secretary general Ligaya Manalang without due process by National Archers Association of the Philippines president Jose Pedregosa backfired as the all-powerful board elected a new president instead during a snap election last Saturday at the POC-NSA Center.

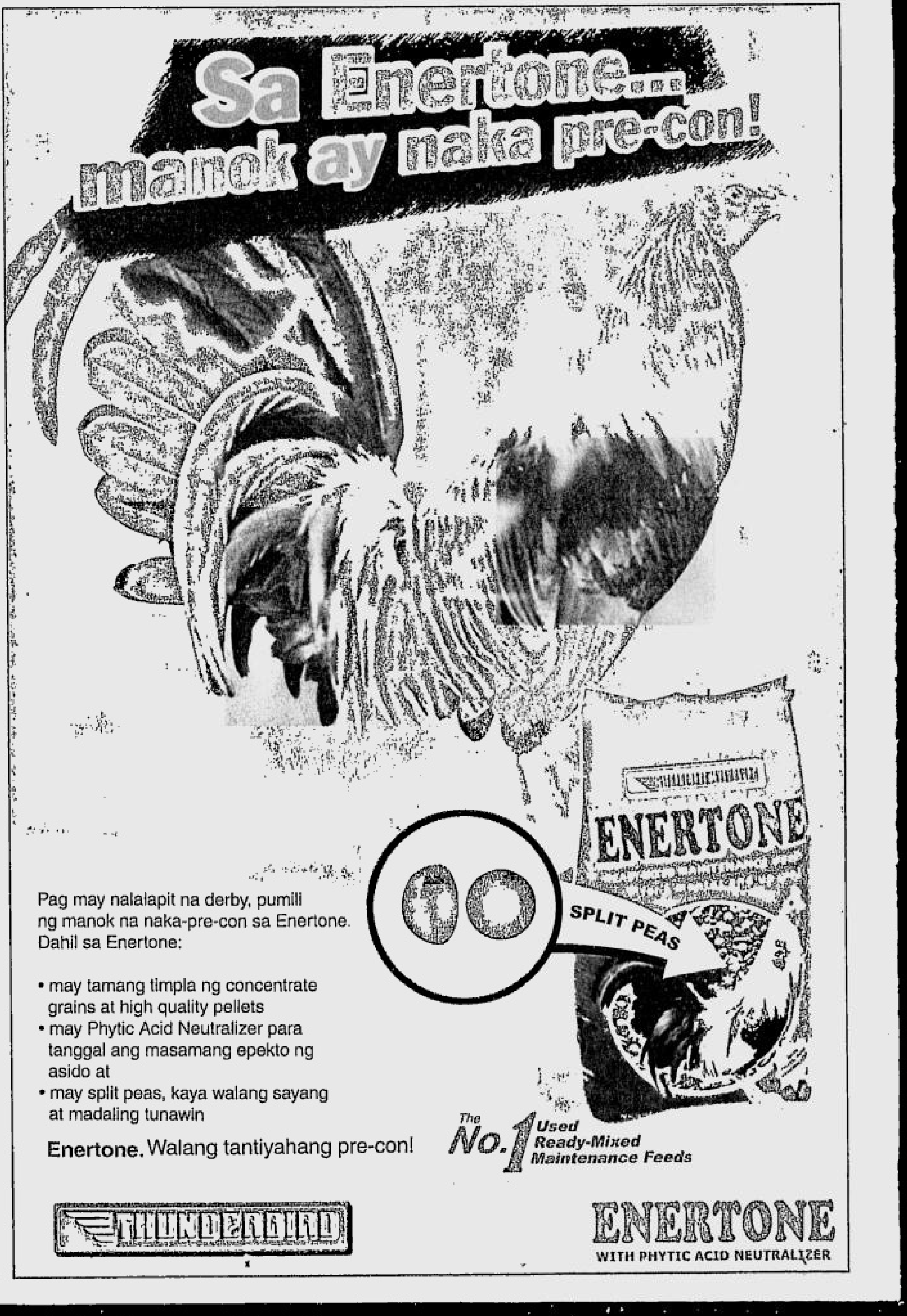
Five of the nine board members, including Manalang, picked Dr. Leonora Fe S. Brawner, wife of Court of Appeals Justice Romeo Brawner, to replace Pedregosa, a retired general.

Apart from Dr. Brawner and Manalang, the others who attended the special board meeting were Dionisio Flores, Cristina Reyes and Renato Velasquez.

Flores and Manalang remained vice president and secretary general, respectively. Bartolome was elected auditor.

Pedregosa was among the four board members absent during the election. Siegfredo L. Velasquez was in the US while Dr. Juan Ma. Pablo Nañagas was in Bacolod. Nestor C, de Castro, a Pedregosa ally, also failed to come.

Dennis U. Erba



Sa Enertone... manok ay naka pre-con!

Pag may nalalapit na derby, pumili ng manok na naka-pre-con sa Enertone. Dahil sa Enertone:

- may tamang timpla ng concentrate grains at high quality pellets
- may Phytic Acid Neutralizer para tanggal ang masamang epekto ng asido at
- may split peas, kaya walang sayang at madaling tunawin

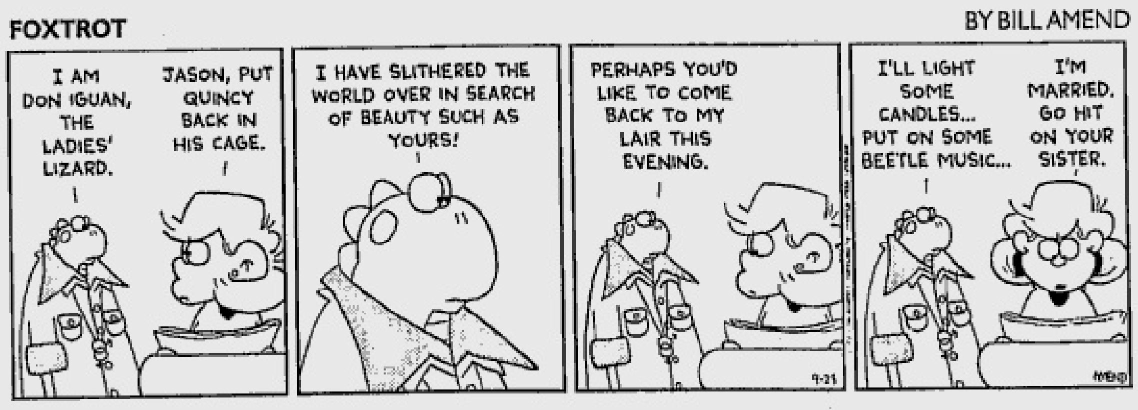
Enertone. Walang tantiyahang pre-con!

The No.1 Used Ready-Mixed Maintenance Feeds

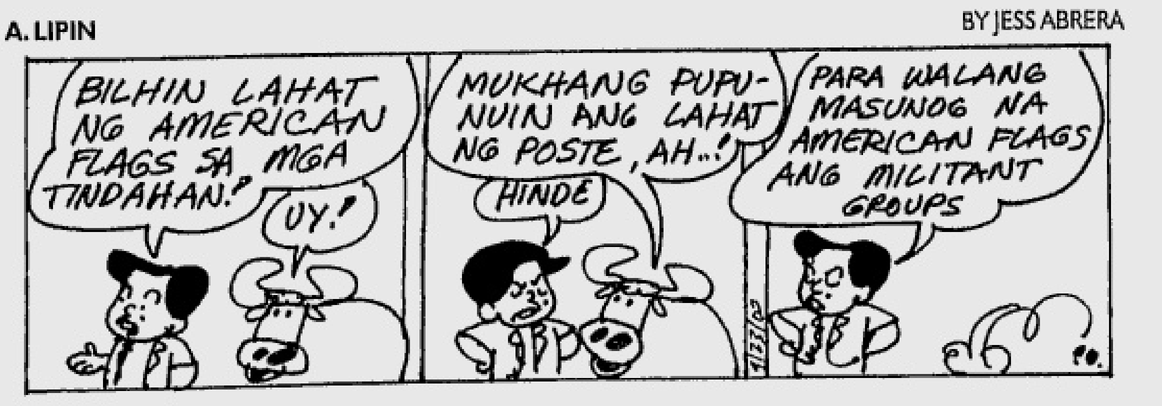
THUNDERBIRD

ENERTONE
WITH PHYTIC ACID NEUTRALIZER

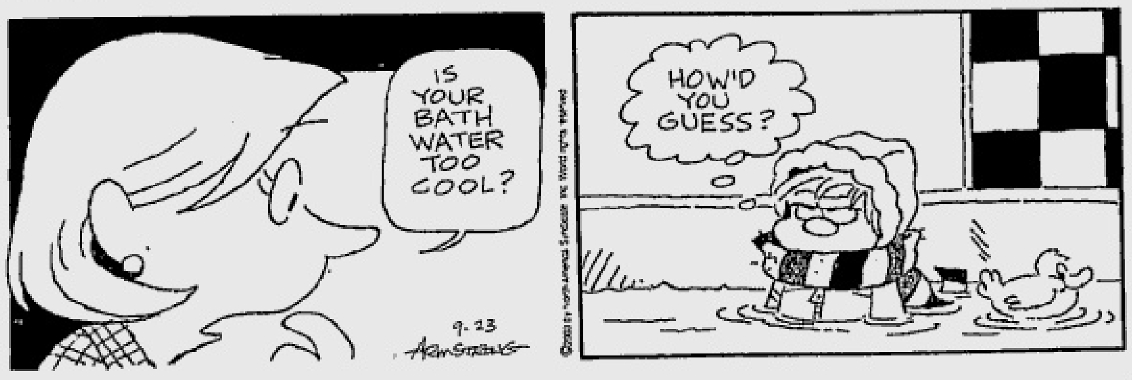
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


I AM DON IGUAN, THE LADIES' LIZARD.
JASON, PUT QUINCY BACK IN HIS CAGE.
I HAVE SLITHERED THE WORLD OVER IN SEARCH OF BEAUTY SUCH AS YOURS!
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO COME BACK TO MY LAIR THIS EVENING.
I'LL LIGHT SOME CANDLES... PUT ON SOME BEETLE MUSIC...
I'M MARRIED. GO HIT ON YOUR SISTER.
9-21

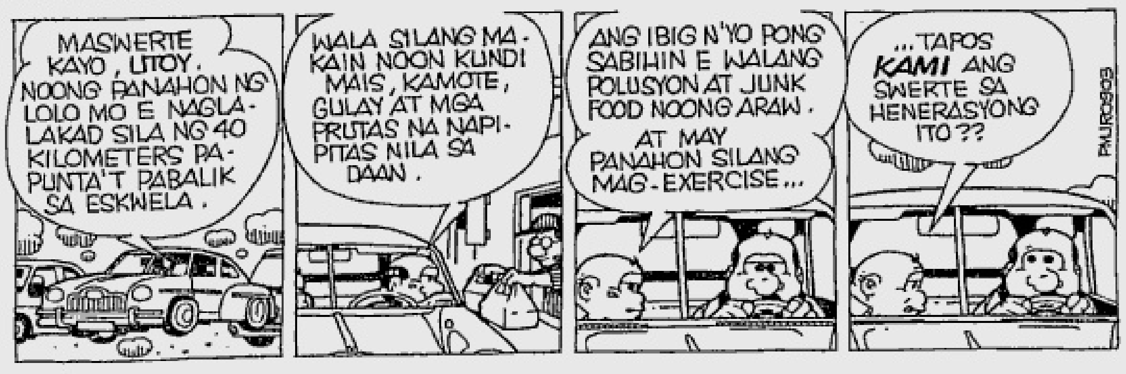
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BILHIN LAHAT NG AMERICAN FLAGS SA MGA TINDAHAN.!
UY.!
MUKHANG PUPUNUIN ANG LAHAT NG POSTE, AH..!
HINDE
PARA WALANG MASUNOG NA AMERICAN FLAGS ANG MILITANT GROUPS

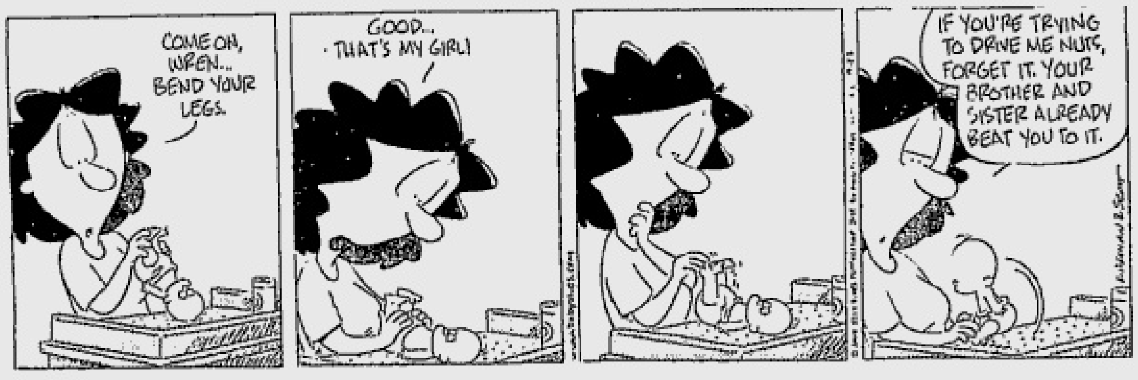
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IS YOUR BATH WATER TOO COOL?
HOW'D YOU GUESS?
9-23
ARMSTRONG

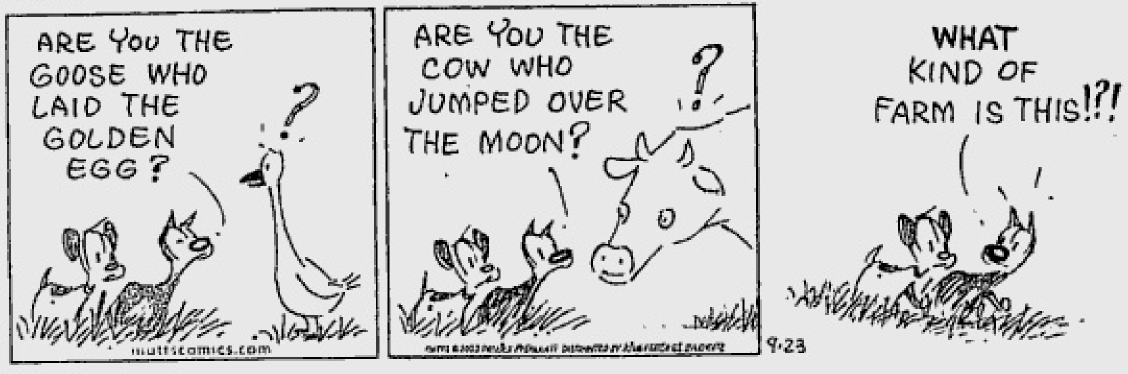
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MASWERTE KAYO, LITOY. NOONG PANAHON NG LOLO MO E NAGLALAKAD SILA NG 40 KILOMETERS PAPUNTA'T PABALIK SA ESKWELA.
WALA SILANG MAKAIN NOON KUNDI MAIS, KAMOTE, GULAY AT MGA PRUTAS NA NAPIPITAS NILA SA DAAN.
ANG IBIG N'YO PONG SABIHIN E WALANG POLUSYON AT JUNK FOOD NOONG ARAW.
AT MAY PANAHON SILANG MAG-EXERCISE...
...TAPOS KAMI ANG SWERTE SA HENERASYONG ITO??
PMJR0903

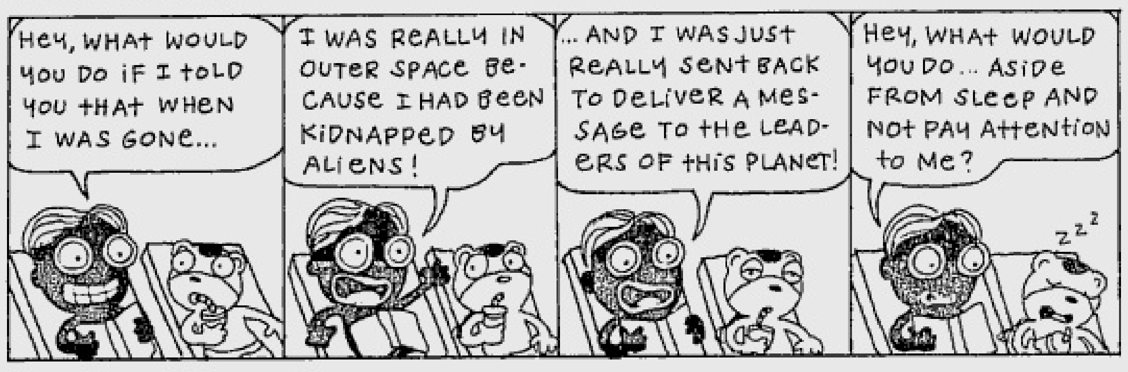
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


COME ON, WREN... BEND YOUR LEGS.
GOOD... THAT'S MY GIRL!
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO DRIVE ME NUTS, FORGET IT. YOUR BROTHER AND SISTER ALREADY BEAT YOU TO IT.

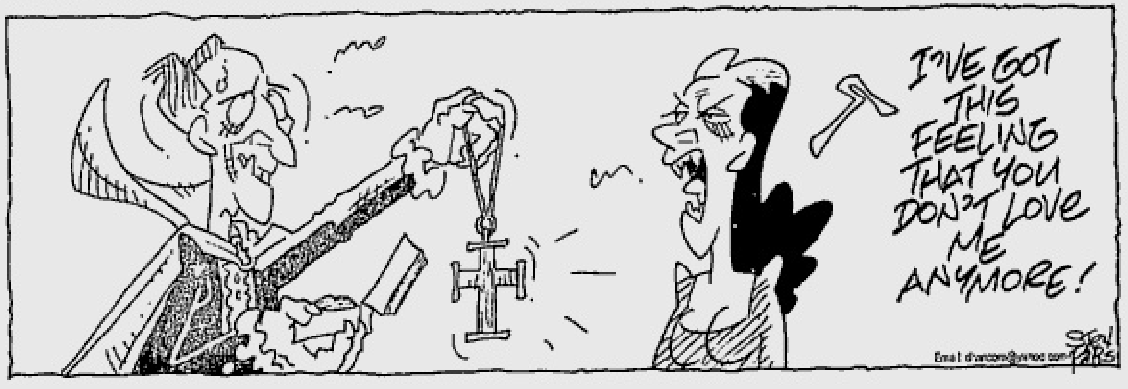
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ARE YOU THE GOOSE WHO LAID THE GOLDEN EGG?
?
ARE YOU THE COW WHO JUMPED OVER THE MOON?
?
WHAT KIND OF FARM IS THIS!?!
muttscomics.com
9-23

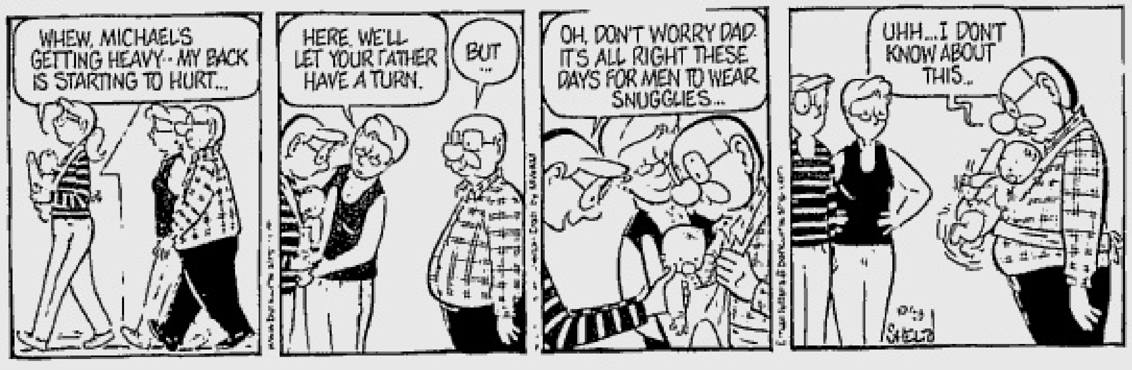
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I TOLD YOU THAT WHEN I WAS GONE...
I WAS REALLY IN OUTER SPACE BECAUSE I HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED BY ALIENS!
...AND I WAS JUST REALLY SENT BACK TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO THE LEADERS OF THIS PLANET!
HEY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO... ASIDE FROM SLEEP AND NOT PAY ATTENTION TO ME?
ZZZ

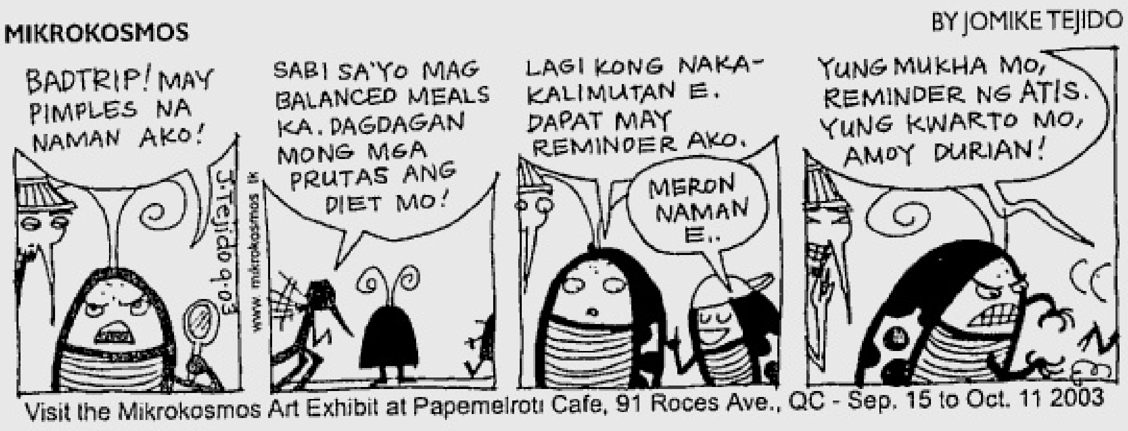
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I'VE GOT THIS FEELING THAT YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANYMORE!
STEV PABS

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

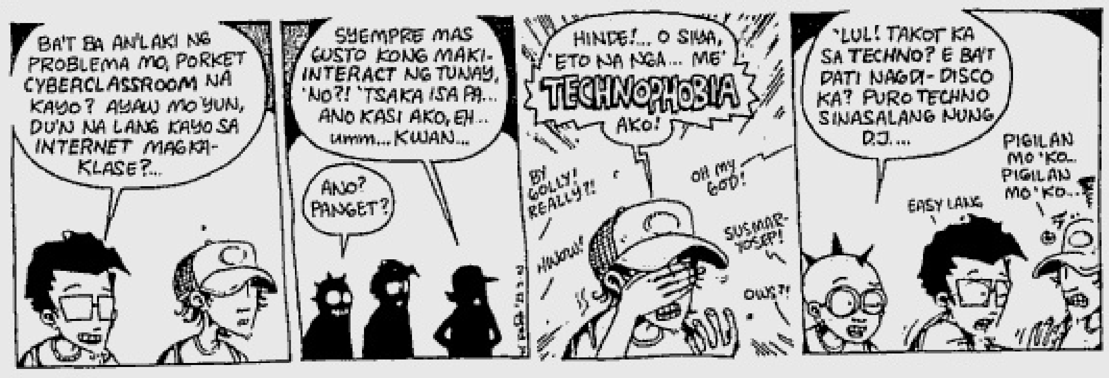

WHEW, MICHAEL'S GETTING HEAVY-- MY BACK IS STARTING TO HURT...
HERE, WE'LL LET YOUR FATHER HAVE A TURN.
BUT ...
OH, DON'T WORRY DAD. IT'S ALL RIGHT THESE DAYS FOR MEN TO WEAR SNUGGLIES...
UHH...I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...
SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

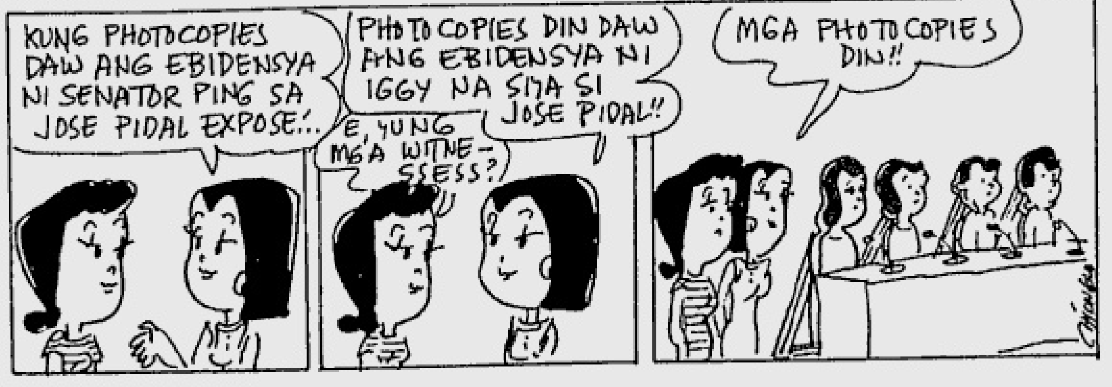

BADTRIP! MAY PIMPLES NA NAMAN AKO!
J.Tejido 9.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk
SABI SA'YO MAG BALANCED MEALS KA. DAGDAGAN MONG MGA PRUTAS ANG DIET MO!
LAGI KONG NAKAKALIMUTAN E. DAPAT MAY REMINDER AKO.
MERON NAMAN E..
YUNG MUKHA MO, REMINDER NG ATIS. YUNG KWARTO MO, AMOY DURIAN!

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

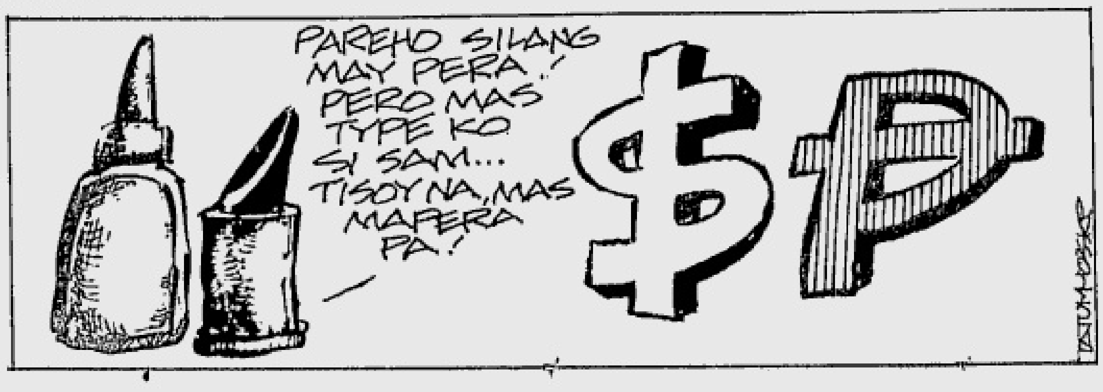
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


BA'T BA AN'LAKI NG PROBLEMA MO, PORKET CYBERCLASSROOM NA KAYO? AYAW MO'YUN, DU'N NA LANG KAYO SA INTERNET MAGKAKLASE?..
SYEMPRE MAS GUSTO KONG MAKI-INTERACT NG TUNAY, 'NO?! 'TSAKA ISA PA... ANO KASI AKO, EH... umm... KWAN...
ANO? PANGET?
HINDE!... O SIGE, 'ETO NA NGA... ME' TECHNOPHOBIA AKO!
BY GOLLY! REALLY?!
OH MY GOD!
HAHAHA!
SUSMARYOSEP!
OWS?!
'LUL! TAKOT KA SA TECHNO? E BA'T DATI NAGDI-DISCO KA? PURO TECHNO SINASALANG NUNG DJ....
EASY LANG
PIGILAN MO 'KO.. PIGILAN MO 'KO..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG PHOTOCOPIES DAW ANG EBIDENSYA NI SENATOR PING SA JOSE PIDAL EXPOSE!..
PHOTOCOPIES DIN DAW ANG EBIDENSYA NI IGGY NA SIYA SI JOSE PIDAL!!
E, YUNG MGA WITNESSESS?
MGA PHOTOCOPIES DIN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAREHO SILANG MAY PERA..! PERO MAS TYPE KO SI SAM... TISOY NA, MAS MAPERA PA!
$
₱
TATUM-PAPU

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are creative, exciting and dynamic. Because of this, you achieve excellent results in whatever you do. Physical difficulties will not hold you back. You are like a bird that must sing. You are also supremely charming. Powerful new beginnings will take place this year.
Birthdate of: John Coltrane, composer; Ray Charles, singer/songwriter; Bruce Springsteen, singer/ songwriter.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel especially tender and sympathetic toward friends today. It's as if you understand what they feel and think. This is true empathy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your ability to visualize how to make things more attractive can make a difference at work today. Don't be afraid to make suggestions. You know what you're doing

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's possible to fall in love at first sight today. In the same way, you feel appreciative and tender with children. What is happening is that your heart is more open to others today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Quite possibly, someone will give you something to improve your home. Perhaps this gift or assistance will help a family member. It's also possible that you will be the one doing the giving!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It is very easy to relate to others today. You understand exactly where they are coming from. This means that you can negotiate, teach and communicate with skill.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You want to buy something truly beautiful today. Quite possibly it is an expensive luxury. If you can afford it without going deeply into debt, do it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You are definitely in the mood to schmooze! You feel witty and interesting—and you are. Grab every opportunity to party, enjoy friends and delight others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You will truly appreciate any bit of time you get to be by yourself today. Solitude in beautiful surroundings will promote your peace of mind and give you a warm feeling in your tummy.

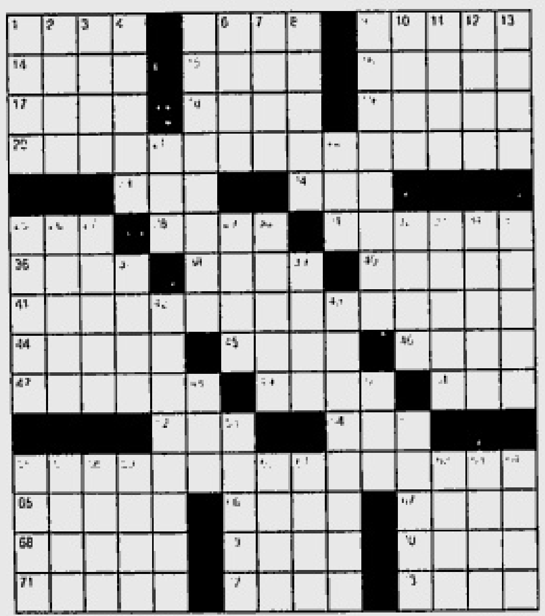
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A mutual sympathy between friends makes it easy for you to help someone or for someone else to help you today. Nothing is too much trouble. People feel genuinely sympathetic and open to each other.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You appear particularly glamorous to others today. Somebody might envy you. It appears that things are going your way. (Even if you don't feel this.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your appreciation of beauty is heightened today. Therefore, visit bookstores, galleries, museums, art stores or beautiful parks.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are naturally compassionate because you empathize with the suffering of others. Today you feel this strongly. You are glad of an opportunity to help someone.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
9/23/03

ACROSS
1 News article
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14 Musical postscript
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19 Shields film, "__ Nevada"
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23 Gray shade
24 Gallery display
25 __ Angelico
28 Fords and Dodges
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36 Dice toss
38 __ bene
40 Bet
41 Unlikely to win
44 Pilfer
45 Broncos' kicker Jason
46 Ballplayer Moises
47 Religious recluse
49 Exile isle
51 Afore
52 West of Hollywood
54 Stimpy's pal
56 Unlikely to win
65 Of acreage
66 Of the mouth
67 Nastase of tennis
68 Lip-flapping woman
69 Child's toy
70 Author George
71 __ and Gomorrah
72 Kett of comics
73 Adam's grandson

DOWN
1 Windows image
2 Commotion
3 Correct copy
4 Craze
5 Predilection
6 Vegetable-oil spread
7 North Carolina university
8 Marine ray
9 City center
10 Part of QED
11 Clinton appointee Guinier
12 Actor Ray
13 Birth a lamb
21 Presidential advisory grp.
22 Pause fillers
25 First-year students
26 Way to go
27 Change
29 Designer Mies van der __
30 Stone marker
32 Stan movie
33 Light on one's feet
34 Male voice
35 Quibble
37 Rich soil
39 Asian sea
42 Humbug
43 Bumbershoot
48 The way, in China
50 Former nuclear power agcy.
53 Wear away
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57 Nabisco cookie
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59 W. alliance
60 Fox chaser?
61 Cause to stop
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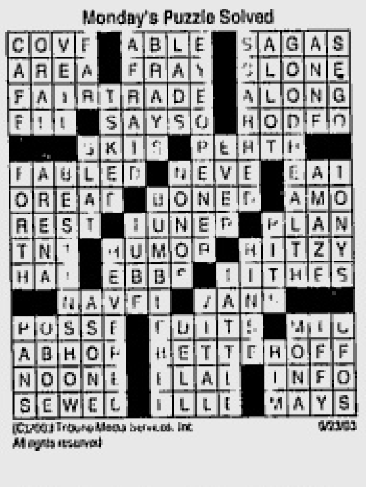
63 Barcelona boy
64 Turner and Williams

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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3 1ST TIME
4 FREDDY VS. JASON

G4 GLORIETTA 4
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2 BASIC
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4 S.WA.T.
5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
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4 FREDDY VS. JASON 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 BASIC 10:35,12:50,3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:55
6 THE MEDALLION 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 S.W.A.T. 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 1ST TIME 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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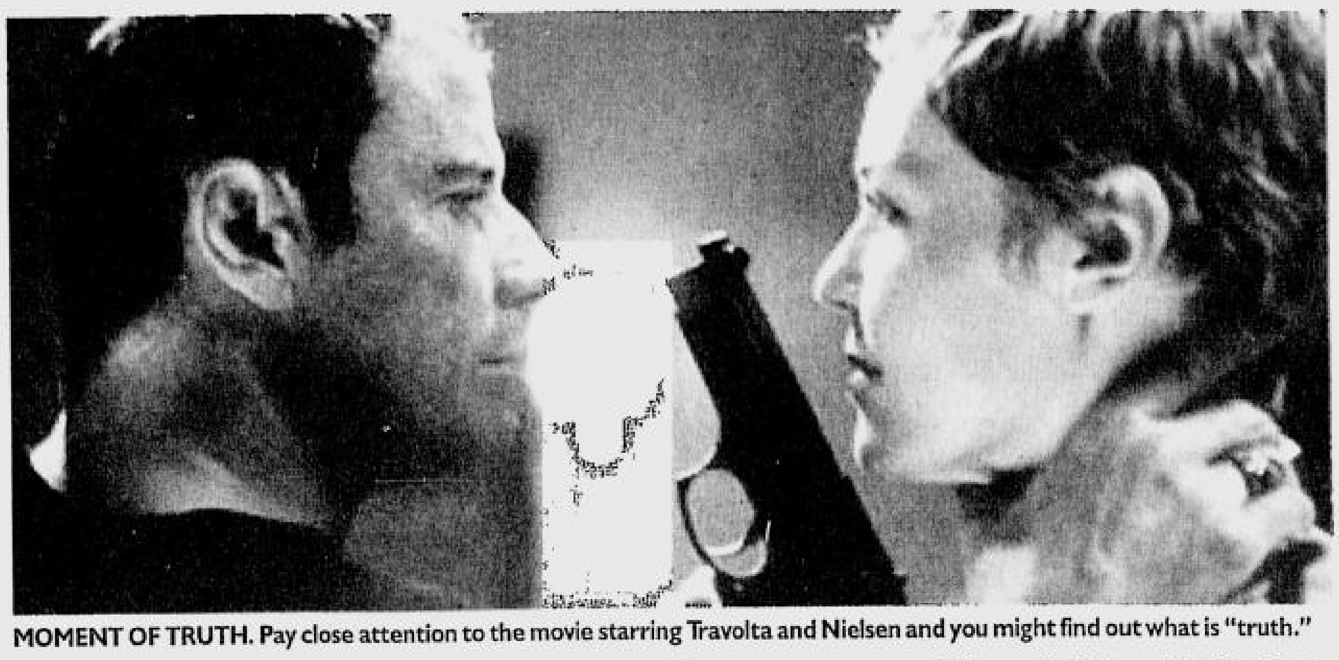
Nothing really basic about 'Basic'

REVIEW

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor



MOMENT OF TRUTH. Pay close attention to the movie starring Travolta and Nielsen and you might find out what is "truth."

A CHARACTER in "Basic" says in one scene that there are many versions and many layers of the truth. Indeed, don't we know it.

For the past few weeks or so, local news headlines have kept us constantly guessing about what the "truth" really is, so that I've found myself more inclined toward watching movies to get an impartial take on reality.

Well, if I was looking for some truthful inspiration from movies, this is one particular movie that didn't give it to me. There's nothing even basic about the movie "Basic" other than its title. Not its plot, not its characters and most of all, not its motives. The only basic thing you can assume about the movie is that not everything it shows you for almost its entirety is what actually happened. So you have to keep in mind that not everything is what it seems while watching the movie.

One more reminder: Pay careful attention. Let your concentration flag and you're lost forever. A trip to the bathroom or the snack bar, or, in my case, a few minutes of dozing off (not because I was bored but because I was just too tired) will certainly leave you floundering the rest of the movie.

Thankfully, I watched "Basic" in Robinson's Ermita, where the good old rules in Philippine theaters still apply. I didn't have to pay to watch the movie a second time. I just had my hand marked by the theater attendant.

The fact that I was only one of several people in the audience who extended their hands to the attendant for seconds had me wondering. Did these people get lost for a few minutes, just like I did, that they had to go back and see what they missed? Were they paying attention but just didn't understand the movie's resolution? Or did the movie actually toy with its audience so well that they thought it to be such a worthwhile experience, at least one worth repeating?

Well, I still don't have the answers. I guess you've just got to see the movie yourself to know if you fall into any of these categories. Maybe you'd even have one of your own, like "I don't understand but I don't care" or "I understand and I'm completely disgusted."

2 survivors

"Basic" tells its story in two different time frames: the present and versions of the past as told through flashbacks. It is set in 1999, at the US Army Base in the Panama Canal Zone. We get a sober voice-over telling us interestingly enough about how the locals used to dispose of dead bodies through the river (yes, through and not down it). One wouldn't really understand what this history lesson has to do with the rest of the movie, until much later.

Next we see Samuel Jackson's Sgt. West and his team of US Army Rangers in a chopper about to descend in the heart of the Panama jungle in the midst of a blinding storm. It's only a training exercise but only two of the seven Rangers would make it back to base. Apparently the others, including their drill sergeant West, are dead.

The base commander, Col. Wilmer (Timothy Daly), wants to know what happened before the tragedy blows up in his face. But while one survivor is wounded and unconscious, the other one is not talking to Lt. Osborne (Connie Nielsen from "Gladiator"), the base's chief military investigator, and is demanding to see a fellow Ranger.

Manipulation

And so, much to the annoyance of Osborne, Wilmer calls in Tom Hardy (John Travolta), an ex-Ranger and former army buddy turned DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) agent, who happens to be stationed in Panama and is stuck in his own kind of quagmire.

Wilmer tells Osborne his friend is the best interrogator anyone's ever seen, "someone who can get into your head faster than you can tie your shoes." Armed with his brash and unorthodox tactics, and with Osborne keeping a close watch, Hardy tries to discover what really happened that stormy night in the Panama jungle. He believes most murders are really basic (hence the movie's title) and not as convoluted as those mystery books and films depict them to be. Of course, the one on their plate is not nearly as simple, as the two survivors remember things with a significantly different spin.

The interrogation between Hardy and the survivors covers a good part of the movie, keeping us pretty much engaged in the interesting but subtle art of manipulation Hardy orchestrates. He goes from friendly to testy to hostile and back all over again, bringing in a fiery sense of bravado as only Travolta could. Of course, Travolta looks and sounds cool doing all these as well over coffee, cigarettes and beer.

Sidekick role

It's a pity though that Travolta's much awaited reunion with Jackson, his partner in Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction," is just a slick case of promotion. The two actors actually only have two scenes together, and only one of them has dialogue.

Another waste is Nielsen, who has shown aptitude and screen presence when given the chance. Here, she's constrained by the limits placed on her character. Osborne is relegated to the role of a sidekick and a sounding board for Hardy. Well, she also provides the proverbial romantic tension and rightly enough looks like a major babe in military uniform, but it's still the kind of part any good-looking actress could have played.

But honestly, I didn't think of these quibbles while watching the movie. The narrative complexity of "Basic" kept me occupied enough. For most of the movie, director John McTiernan and scriptwriter James Vanderbilt ("Darkness Falls") allow us to sift through the facts and fiction on our own. At the end of the movie, I wished I had taken copious notes to determine if the script's logic makes sense. But I guess logic here is less the issue than style. As for style, the movie and its cast have plenty to spare.

Drunk or sober

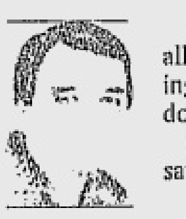
McTiernan has directed hits like "Die Hard," "The Hunt for Red October" and "The Thomas Crown Affair" as well as misses like "Rollerball" and "The Last Action Hero," but through his line of work he has shown that he can generate a nearly perfect pace when needed. In "Basic" he keeps things moving despite the need to provide a fair amount of exposition.

The movie earns its almost two-hour running time. It's not a masterpiece but is, at least for me, consistently entertaining.

With a flurry of revelations in the end, it's the kind of movie I'd like to talk about over a bottle of beer, which I did after my second screening. With so many twists though, "Basic" is just as puzzling when you're buzzed as it is when you're sober.

Lou Diamond Phillips' way

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

WITH his espousal of Filipino causes. Fil-Am Hollywood star **Lou Diamond Phillips** provides a shining example for local stars to emulate.

Lou has been active campaigning for the passage of a benefits bill for Filipino soldiers who fought in World War II, and is preparing to make a film about a Filipino looking for his father in the States.

The film should go a long way in focusing the movie world's attention on the Filipino ethos. For these and other laudable contributions, Lou's name could veritably be changed to Lou Diamond Philippines!

We hope that our homegrown stars can get inspired by Lou's example and also plug for their own causes, both nationalist and otherwise. It would be great if each star used his popularity and cachet to promote worthy movements that would benefit a lot from his clout.

Some stars are already doing that, but many more are needed to channel their fame into something truly productive. We know that **Aga Muhlach** supports causes for children, and **Jolina Magdangal** has youth-oriented projects that she pushes—but what about the others?

Let's just focus on the big stars for now: What cause is **Dolphy** supporting? **Judy Ann Santos**? **Rudy Fernandez**? We don't mean occasional benefit shows for charitable institutions, but major causes identified with specific stars.

Clearly, there's a lot more that our stars can do in this regard. So, if you're a celebrity, stop for a minute to decide on a cause to boost, and starting today, support it fully and consistently—the "Lou Diamond Philippines" way.

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: How are you feeling now?

Co-host: OK—but why are you asking me?

Host: *Siyempre*, we all know that, for the first time, *wala na sa tabi mo ang iyong monica hija, 'ika nga.*

(*Ay, monica hija!*)

* * *

Host: Who are you living with now?

Guest: In the Philippines? I live alone, because my mother is now in Subic.

(Uh, come again?)

* * *

Host: You have received so much criticism these past few days . .

Guest: Yes, but I forgive them all. After all, as the biblical saying goes, "God bless you, for you don't know what you are doing."

(That's *not* how the biblical saying goes!)

* * *

Host: What can you say about your girlfriend now? How much do you appreciate her?

Guest: I appreciate her very much! She has become my flashlight!

(She's got really strong batteries, huh?)

* * *

Host: What is your role in your next movie?

Guest: In my next movie, I play a really challenging role!

Host: What role?

Guest: A bottled wife!

(Bottled—as in pickled?)

* * *

Host: How long does it take you to finish making one of these wind chimes?

Guest: Practice makes perfect, so I can finish one within 30 to 30 minutes.

(Say again, please.)

* * *

Host: We see you so often on TV now, defending yourself because of your latest controversy. Why do you do it?

Guest: Well, of course, *kasi 'pag 'di ka magsalita, parang pag-amin na* guilty *ka, o* admittance *na ganoon.*

(*Ay*, admittance!)

* * *

Host: Can't others do it for you?

Guest: *Sino?* You know *naman na wala akong* spokeperson!

(*Ay*, spokeperson!)

* * *

Host: What is your next film going to be?

Guest: Well, it's a horror.

(Thanks for being so honest!)

* * *

Host: Who will win a free ticket to the concert? Tell them.

Guest: *Yung* 500 caller *po ang magwawagi.*

(One ticket, 500 winners? *Pihadong magkakagulo!*)

* * *

Host: You're also doing something special on television?

Guest: Yes, it's a tellingsining!

(A what?)

* * *

Host: So, how are you feeling, after all the controversy?

Guest: Sad; *kasi ako ang lumabas na* negative, *'di ba? Pero tinatanggap ko 'yon nang maluwag—pero mabigat—*

(Make up your mind!)

* * *

Host: Tell them who else is having a show this month.

Co-host: Oh, so many of them. But I'm especially looking forward to the show of one artist from abroad, Michael Booble!

(That's a boob-tube Booble!)

My mom would have given me the biggest birthday surprise of all

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

ALLOW me to wax sentimental just for today. Birthdays make us do that, don't they?

I may not exactly be in a birthday mood because my mom is still in the ICU, but I know that if she were awake she would want me to be in high spirits. And with loads of help from my family, friends and colleagues, I somehow managed to smile as I turned a year crazier.

I have fond memories of birthdays past when my mom would always, always spring a surprise on me. I know that if she had her way, my mom would have given me the biggest surprise of all and opened her eyes on my birthday just to greet me. I miss her "dramatic" birthday letters to me, but all I have to do is look inward and I instantly remember all she has taught me through the years. I can almost hear her signature throaty voice saying, "I will be right back. Promise!"

And that's one promise I'm holding on to now, regardless of what the doctor's diagnosis is. Being a mother myself, I know that our children's birthdays are even more meaningful than our own because we live for them. And in my heart I know that even now that she's under sedation, my mom continues to live for my brother Ricky, sister Clara and me.

I'd like to thank some very special people who have given me more reasons than I can count to be grateful for all that has been and for all that will be:

The staff of "Celebrity DAT Com." Thanks for a truly heartwarming birthday VTR surprise. It was one of the few times I was speechless.

My kids **Bianchi** and **Ice**, my stepdad **Gene**, my sis **Clara**, my bro **Ricky** and my nieces **Stef**, **Smile** and **Sam**. Thanks for knowing what and what not to say on TV about me. Just kidding! All my life I'll keep trying my best to deserve you all.

TJ Manotoc. Thanks, T., for helping me hold back my tears during the show.

Dominic Ochoa. *Merci beaucoup* for letting your coolness rub off on me.

Ces Drilon. *Muchas gracias*, my dear "V" sister for letting our friendship bloom. When I look at you I see the woman I'd like to be. Fab at 40!

Vicky Belo. How can I thank you enough for helping me not look my age?

Tita **Bebot Santos** and *Tita* **Baby** of Cafe Kilimanjaro, my fave QC hangout. Thanks for your unwavering love and support all these years.

Terrie and **Marivic** of Terrie Shoppesville Greenhills. Thanks for the fab outfits I wear on my show. Your clothes make me feel young.

Vivian Sarabia. My endless thanks for your boundless kindness.

Goulee Gorospe and **Cerena Masu.** Thanks from the bottom of my heart for "spoiling" me more than I deserve. Thanks also for making me look good with your classy creations. You surely make me dress the part.

Aiko Melendez. Thank you for valuing our friendship as much as I do.

Tin-Tin Bersola and **Julius Babao.** You restore my belief in true and lasting love. Thanks for giving my overworked heart hope as I seem to be in the wrong place every time Mr. Right comes knocking.

Ogie Alcasid. Thanks for being so emotionally attuned to me, *amigo!*

Riki Kwek. Thanks for being like my twin sister.

Marvin Agustin. Thank you for being in my corner.

Angel Aquino and **Norby David.** *Mille grazie* for keeping our bond infallible.

Robin Padilla. *Maraming salamat sa makabugbag damdamin na sulat!* All is forgiven. I can vouch for how my mom takes to you like a son.

My Friends@d'Square family, especially **Albert Nocum.** Without you all, I don't know how I would have survived storm after storm. I am indebted to you for life and even after life.

True Faith Band, especially **Medwin Marfil.** Even if I spent eternity thanking you for the countless times your music and friendship turned my day around for the better, it still would not suffice.

Just asking

COULD it be true that **Carol Banawa** is giving some concert producers in the United States a major headache because she has become quite swell-headed?

A producer's staff member told me, "She's giving us the runaround. She says yes and all of a sudden, when we talk again, she has other additional requirements. She may be in demand now in the States because she just arrived there and plans to stay there for quite some time till her dad gets well, but she should not be rattled by all the fame. *Ang hirap niyang kausap.* She can just say no right from the start to save us expenses and hassles."

Hopefully in time, when she has really settled in her new home, Carol won't be so disoriented anymore. The girl's got talent.

Guess who

MY party animal friend swears that a separated TV host/actress and the daughter of a well-respected actress are now going steady. They are discreet when they are in public but their eyes can't lie.

I respect anybody's choice as to whom to love. Just because they are not in the same path as our hearts are does not mean they are lost. They just happen to find love in a different place.

'Wired 2'

PEG Inc. presents "Wired 2-Pure Pinoy" at Dish at the Power Plant in Rockwell on Wednesday, Oct. 1. The concert will bring together **Paolo Santos** with Hour Glass, **Nyoy Volante** with Mannos, and True Faith. They will be singing their original compositions and other tunes by the APO Hiking Society, South Border and Ogie Alcasid.

The show is sponsored by Bench, Pagcor, Gentext, Nescafe, and Nestle. Tickets are P300 each. Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 9 p.m.

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For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

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TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

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ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
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CORONET A	FIRST TIME
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REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	BASIC
CINEMA-15	FIRST TIME
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-1	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-2	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-4	SPY KIDS 3D
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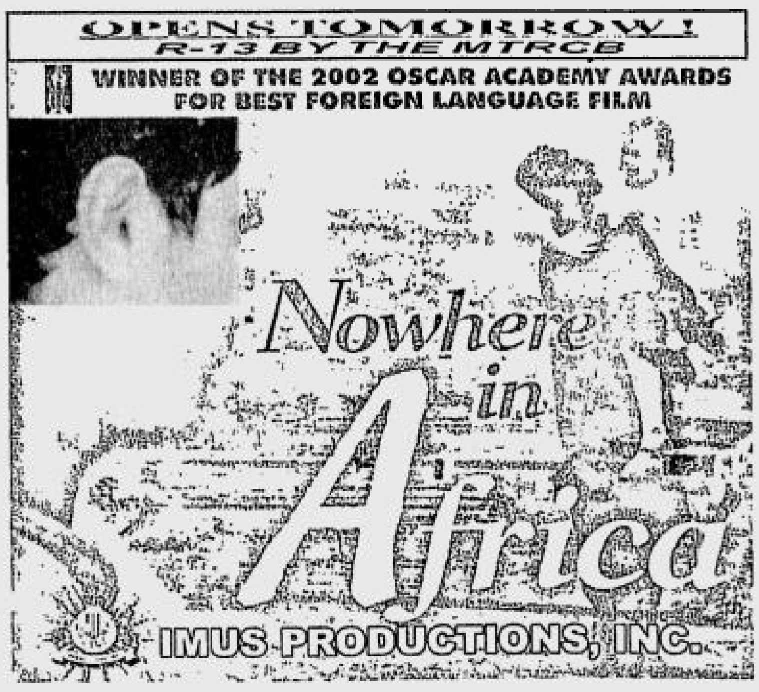
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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DID YOU KNOW...

Vic Sotto and Dina Bonnevie's kids **Oyo Boy** and **Danica Sotto** were seen partying at the Wasabi bar in Makati with Oyo Boy's girlfriend, **Alessandra de Rossi**, their cousin, **Mico**, and his ex-girlfriend, **Sunshine Dizon**, who, the eyewitness said, was "dancing wildly."

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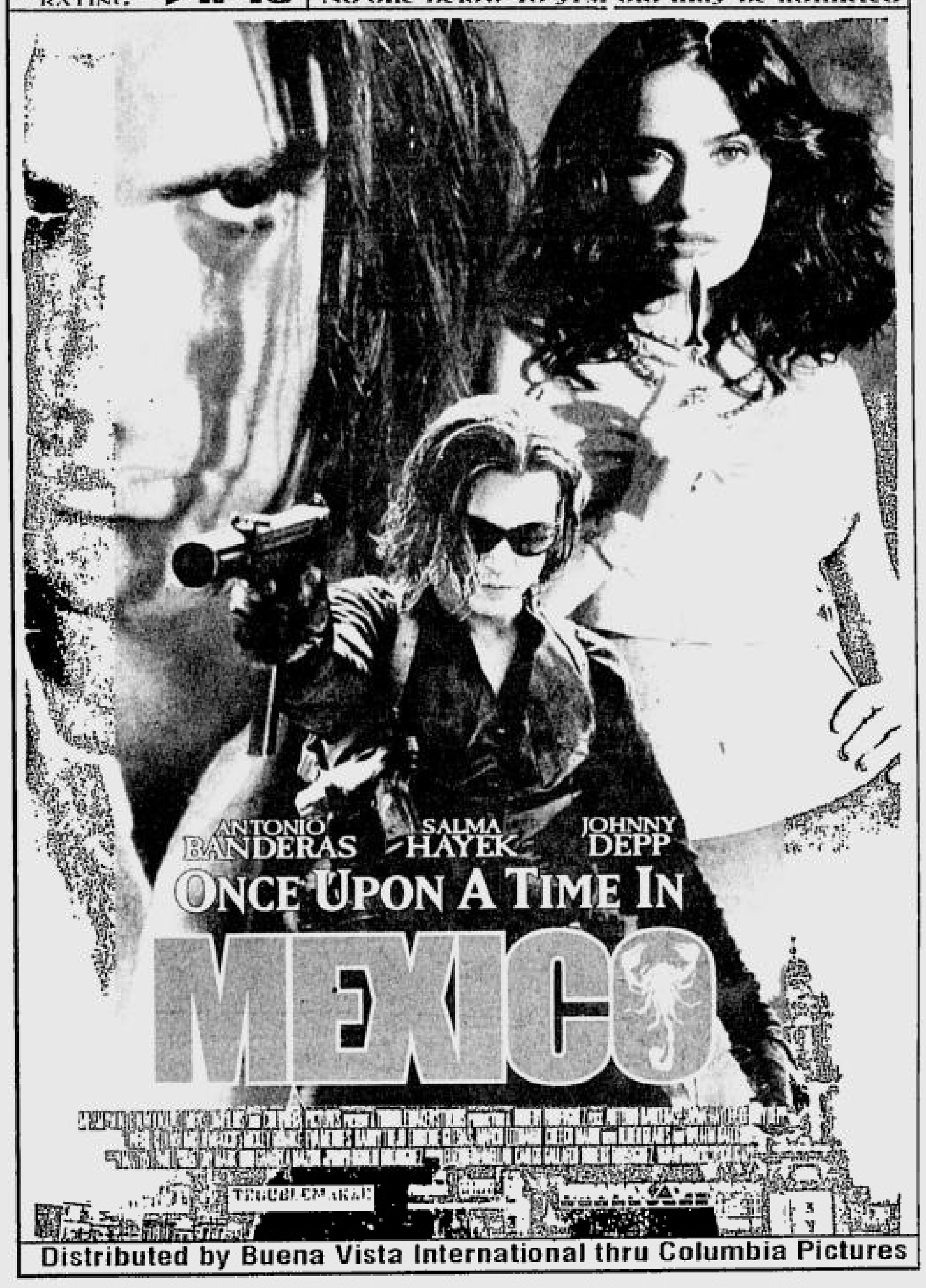

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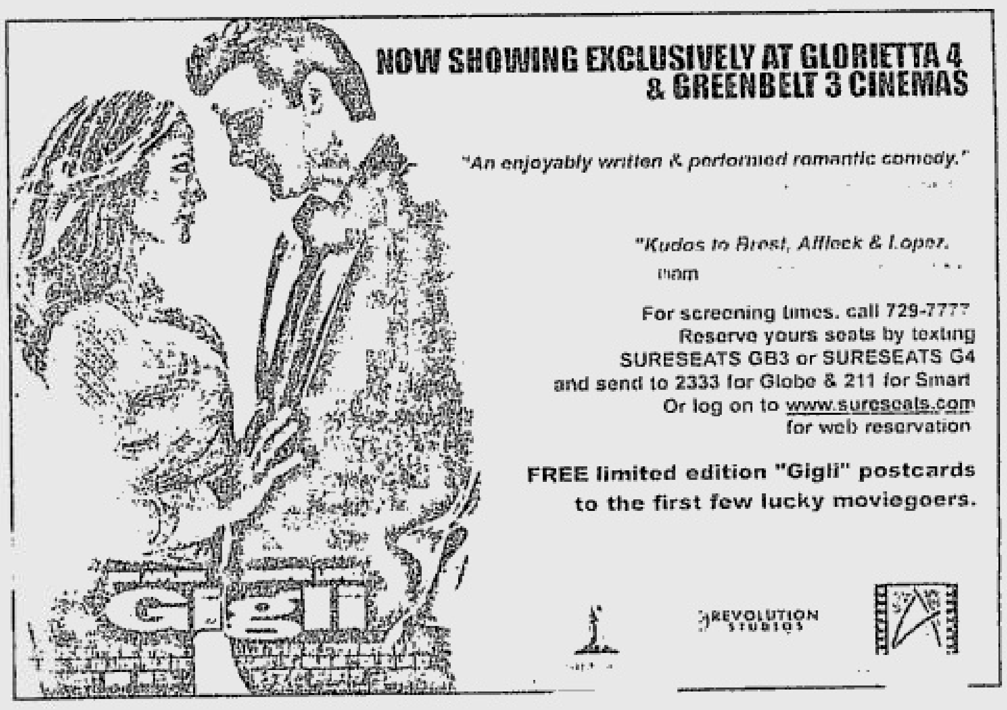
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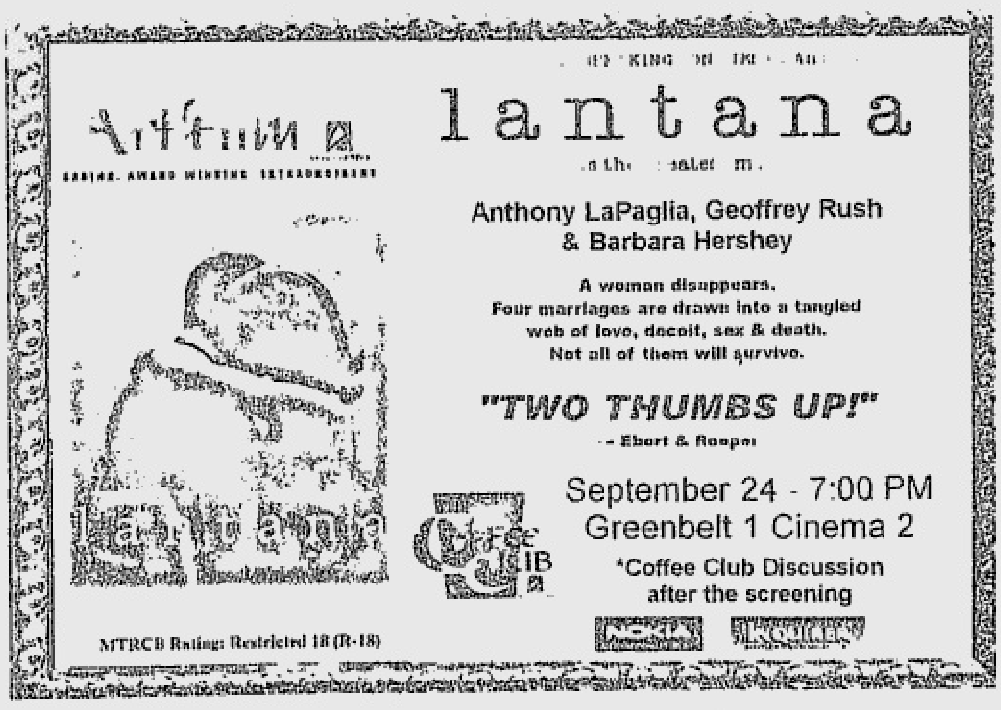

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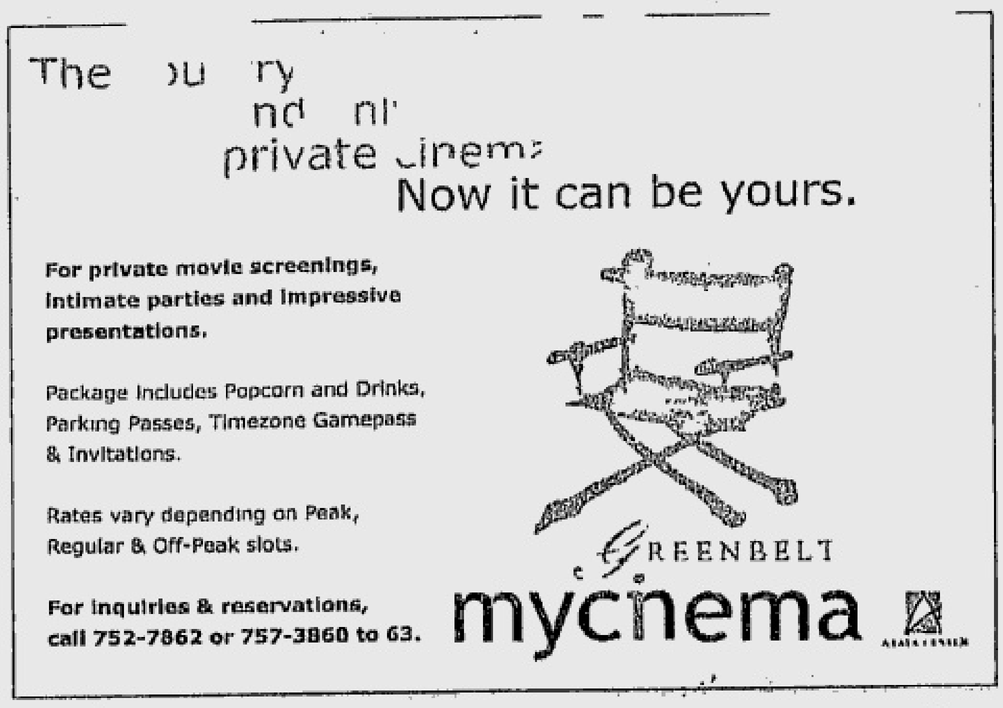
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

'West Wing' buries 'Sopranos,' 'Six Feet Under'

LOS ANGELES—NBC White House drama "The West Wing" again proved the primetime power of the presidency, winning a fourth straight term as best drama series at the Emmys while CBS's "Everybody Loves Raymond" took the top comedy prize and two major acting awards.

For the third year, "West Wing" rubbed out HBO mob show "The Sopranos," which had been considered a frontrunner for best drama going into the 55th Annual Primetime Emmy awards, US television's top honors, Sunday night.

HBO's "Six Feet Under," the leading nominee with 16 bids, was shut out Sunday and won only a single technical award.

But HBO won a leading 18 Emmys, followed by CBS with 16, NBC with 15 and ABC with nine. Fox and PBS earned seven each.

"Sopranos" managed top dramatic acting awards for stars James Gandolfini and Edie Falco. Each has earned a total of three Emmys for playing crime boss Tony Soprano and his wife Carmela.

"The Sopranos" also garnered a supporting actor trophy for Joe Pantoliano, whose character was murdered by Tony Soprano this past season. Despite the success in acting categories, cast members were clearly disappointed at losing out once again to "West Wing" for the marquee prize as best dramatic series.

Backstage, Gandolfini reasoned that the gritty subject matter of "Sopranos" "turns people off." Falco added with resignation, "I don't know how this thing works. I put on a dress, I come here, and I smile."

THE KISS between Madonna and Britney Spears during the recent MTV Music Awards is shown during the Emmy awards and imitated by Matthew Perry who locks lips with winner Doris Roberts (left). PHOTOS BY AP, REUTERS

"West Wing" executive producer John Wells said he was "shocked" at the drama's repeat victory. But last year's big Emmy winner, "West Wing," was shut out of most of the other major categories. Its only other win was for best directing in a drama, which went to Christopher Misiano.

Take it and go

CBS scored big with its top-rated sitcom, "Everybody Loves Raymond," taking its first-ever award as TV's best comedy as the show heads into its eighth and possibly final season.

"Raymond" also yielded best supporting actor and actress laurels for co-stars Brad Garrett (his second Emmy) and Doris Roberts (her third for the show).

"There are two schools of thought—that this (Emmy) is very encouraging, or that we should take this and go," said the show's executive producer, Philip Rosenthal, when asked whether the show would return next fall for a ninth season. "It is hard to keep coming up with stories. We have done 175 shows."

Garry Shandling, one of many comedians serving as hosts of the show, received a long kiss from Garrett that parodied the Madonna-Britney Spears kiss from the MTV Video Music Awards. Matthew Perry kept the joke going with his smooch planted on Roberts.

In two big surprises, CBS's contest program "The Amazing Race" beat high-profile "reality TV" rivals including Fox's "American Idol" and CBS's "Survivor," while "Will & Grace" co-star Debra Messing was named best actress in a comedy.

Messing had been nominated four times, but had never won an Emmy while all three of her primary co-stars had.

"I can't imagine it being more sweet, I really can't," Messing told reporters backstage. "This is otherworldly, I've never allowed myself to dream this far."

Tony Shalhoub, who portrays an obsessive-compulsive detective in cable TV program "Monk," won the Emmy for best actor in a comedy series in a first for a cable TV show.

BIG WINNER Macy, for directing, acting and writing the best TV movie

Veteran actress Tyne Daly won the Emmy for best supporting actress in a TV drama for her role in CBS's "Judging Amy."

Among other big winners was TV movie, "Door to Door" on cable network TNT, which claimed four Emmys—best directing, writing, and acting for star William H. Macy, as well as the top award in its category for best TV movie.

"Door to Door" was based on the true story of Bill Porter, a salesman with cerebral palsy.

"Steven Spielberg presents Taken" was named best TV mini-series.

Bittersweet

Sunday's ceremony was both celebratory and bittersweet, with homage paid to a number of performers and industry figures who died this year, including Bob Hope, John Ritter, Gregory Hines and Fred Rogers.

ANOTHER KISS is bestowed, this time by best actress in a comedy Debra Messing for "Will & Grace"

An emotional Shalhoub, in the spirit of the evening's other tributes, noted the sudden death of a nephew, who the actor said had "a warm laugh and a good heart."

Comedy Central's "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart," which received plaudits for poking fun at Iraq war coverage, won for the first time as best variety show, breaking a five-year winning streak for David Letterman. "The Daily Show" was also honored for its writing.

In other miniseries or movie categories, Maggie Smith won lead actress for "My House in Umbria." The movie "Hysterical Blindness" won best supporting actor and actress honors for Ben Gazzara and Gena Rowlands, respectively.

Hope tribute

Wayne Brady was named best individual performer in a variety or musical program for "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

"Cher—The Farewell Tour" was named best variety, music or comedy special.

Bill Cosby accepted the second Bob Hope Humanitarian Award with a speech in which he thanked his wife, Camille, for 40 years of unconditional love and recalled fondly beloved children's entertainer Rogers.

Cosby also shared a lighthearted memory of bringing his son, Ennis, with him to work on an episode of the animated series "Fat Albert." Ennis Cosby was shot to death in Los Angeles in 1997.

Walter Cronkite paid tribute to Hope, who died at age 100 this summer.

Four acting awards for guest roles also were given out. Emmys for best guest actress and actor in a drama series went to Alfre Woodard for "The Practice" and Charles S. Dutton for "Without a Trace."

Best guest actor and actress in a comedy series were Gene Wilder for "Will & Grace" and Christina Applegate for "Friends."

AP, Reuters

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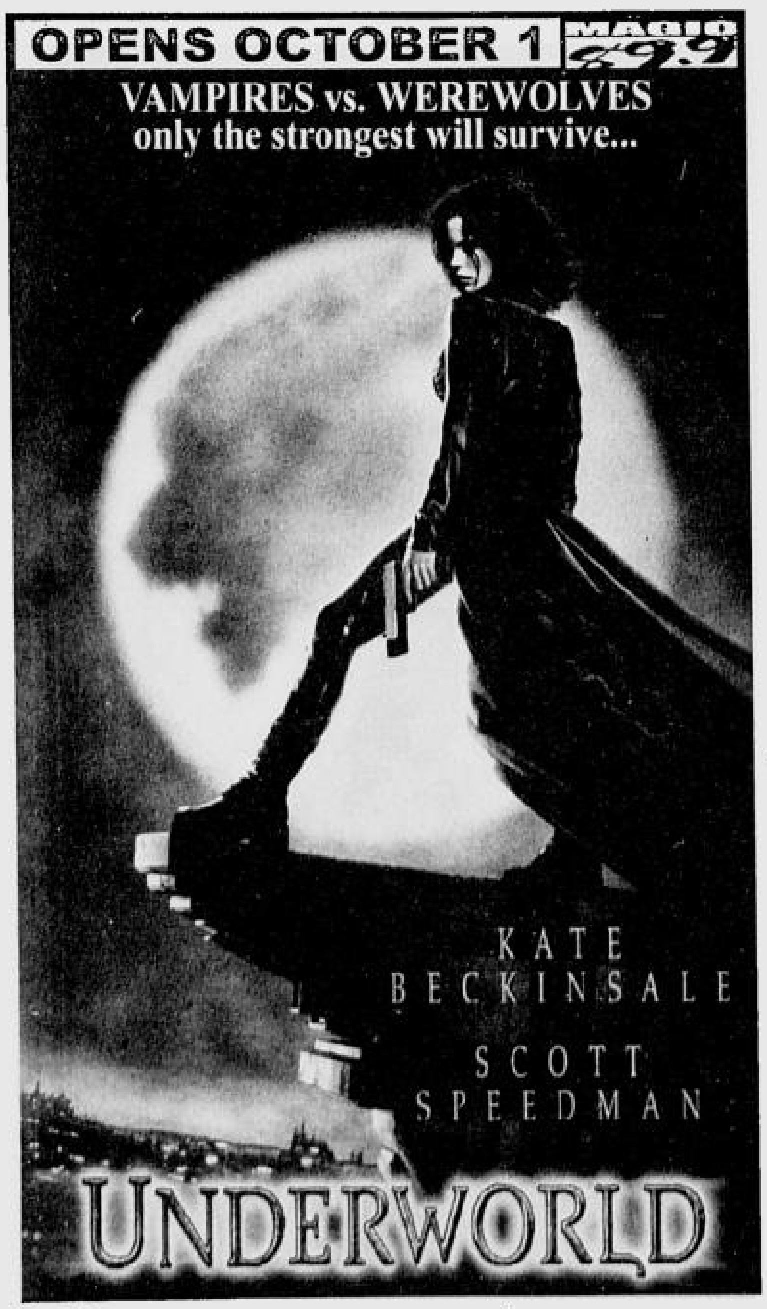

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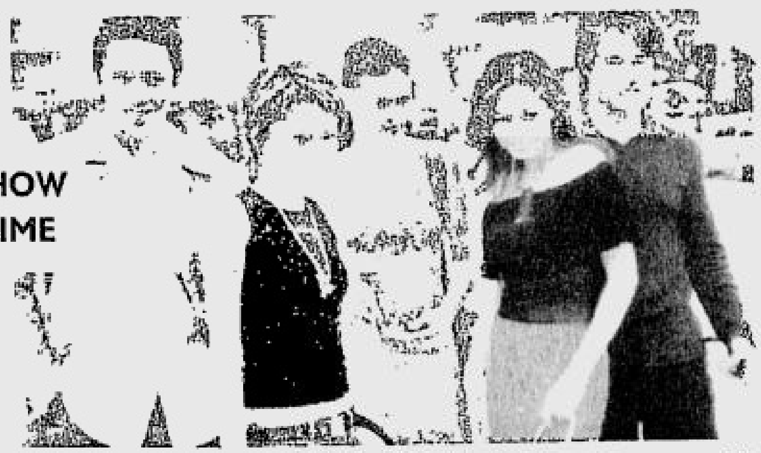
RPN show on single life has 3 girls and a wannabe-girl

SHOW TIME



"SINGLE GIRLS" cast (from left) Manny Distor, Cheryl Tantengco, MJ Maycon, Criselda Volks and Karlo Enriquez

THE SINGLE life is depicted in a new and refreshing television series, "Single Girls," presented by Match TV every Sunday, 8-9 p.m., starting Oct. 5 on RPN 9.

Each of the story's four highly modern young people—Jeannie, Charlie, Isa and Tony—represents a real character that most viewers will be able to relate to. Every episode is seasoned with humor about being single and independent, the difference between a man and a woman, their roles and struggles, the way society looks at being single, and the many adventures of single life.

Jeannie, played by commercial model Cheryl Tantengco, longs for true love but rebels against society's demand for women to be feminine to be worth loving.

Charlie, portrayed by ramp model MJ Maycon, is susceptible to stereotypical beliefs about what a young woman should be. She talks with a twang but makes hilarious grammatical errors that would make English teachers faint. Isa, played by movie actress Criselda Volks, is a single mother who hasn't learned her lesson, and so she keeps on looking for Mr. Right in all the wrong places, a man who will not only love her but will also love her daughter.

Karlo Enriquez is Tony, the gay best friend who also considers himself one of the single girls. Tony's struggle is about making his family, especially his father, know about his sexual orientation but he is too afraid to tell them for fear of rejection. He is in law school, which is full of "real" men.

The show combines the interesting character growth of "Sex and the City," the musical scoring of "Ally Mcbeal," the tongue-in-cheek humor of "Friends," and the love story of "Dawson's Creek"

"Single Girls" is directed by award-winning MTV and commercial director Monti Parungao and written by two-time Palanca winner Jhoanna Cruz. The show is supported by 88.3 Jam, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 DWRT, 103.5 K-Lite, philstar.com and femalenetwork.com.

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Banks face sanctions for 'window-dressing'

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has decided to penalize banks found window-dressing their books, making these appear more profitable to impress the public and to give their directors fat bonuses.

The new policy effectively prohibited banks from charging loan-loss provisions for the current year from earnings or surpluses from the previous year, a practice that at least two big, listed banks had done in the past.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the Monetary Board decided to slap a maximum penalty of P30,000 a day from the time the window-dressing was committed to the day it was corrected.

The auditing firm that cleared the questionable practice could also face sanctions from the central bank or from the Professional Regulatory Commission, Reyes added.

"The Monetary Board has decided to impose sanctions on banks charging allowance for probable losses to accounts other than operating expenses for the same period consistent with internationally accepted accounting principle. Provisions for losses should not be charged on surplus or retained earnings," the central bank official said.

Reyes said that in the event the correction could no longer be made, the amount charged to surplus would be deducted from the profit-sharing or bonuses of bank directors and officers given that most bonuses were based on how much the profit was from the previous year.

"Aside from the fine, we are also prepared to slap administrative sanctions like suspension of privileges to rediscount and to tap other BSP facilities," the BSP deputy governor said.

Any accounting firm accredited by the BSP found involved in any window-dressing could be penalized or may even be removed from the central bank's list, according to Reyes.

"For auditing firms not in the list, the BSP could write the PRC and ask the regulatory body to deal with it," he added.

In 2002, Equitable PCI Bank reported a net profit of P140 million for 2001. But its external au-

BANKS/ B4

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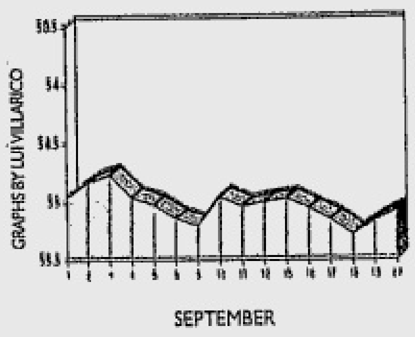

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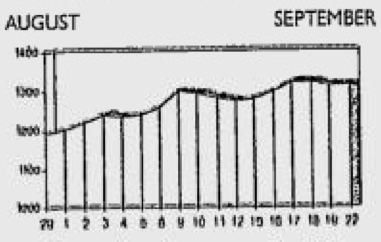
STOCK MARKET

Shares end higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES ended slightly higher yesterday as a key support level on the main index held firm, encouraging buying by investors after a flurry of profit-taking late last week, traders said.

"It was just a bit of base building around 1,308 points," said Rommel Macapagal, chair of Westlink Global Securities.

The market's ability to hold at that recent support level prompted some light buying of selected large caps and second tier firms which should continue today, traders said.

The main stock index closed up 4.19 points, or 0.32 percent, at 1,314.00 points. For the year, the market is up 29.02 percent. *Reuters*

Economy seen growing by 4.5% in 2nd half

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG expects the economy to bounce back sharply in the second half this year on the back of higher exports to the country's major buyers—the United States and Japan.

In a report to President Macapagal Arroyo, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the country's gross domestic product (GDP) should grow by 4.5 percent in the second half this year from 3.9 percent in the first half.

Neri said the country's exports should bloom in the second half of this year with the country's two leading trade partners expected to sustain their economic recovery during the period.

Neri, who is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said the government has laid the groundwork for growth-inducing sectoral policies that would allow the Philippines to take advantage of opportunities presented by higher demand from the United States and Japan.

These policies included the promotion of productivity programs in agriculture with the use of hybrid rice and certified seeds, the rehabilitation of irrigation network, and implementation of roll-on roll-off port facilities and vessels to lower the cost of transportation in the country.

Aside from exports, the government is also looking to perk up economic activity in the local market by stepping up its expenditures in the second half this year.

The Neda is hoping that the government's pump-priming in the second half this year would inject new life into the agriculture sector where the unemployment rate has risen to record levels as of July this year due to the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Neri said the government was allocating more financial support to small- and medium-sized enterprises, easing payment and hastening processing of housing loans, and updating its payments to suppliers and contractors.

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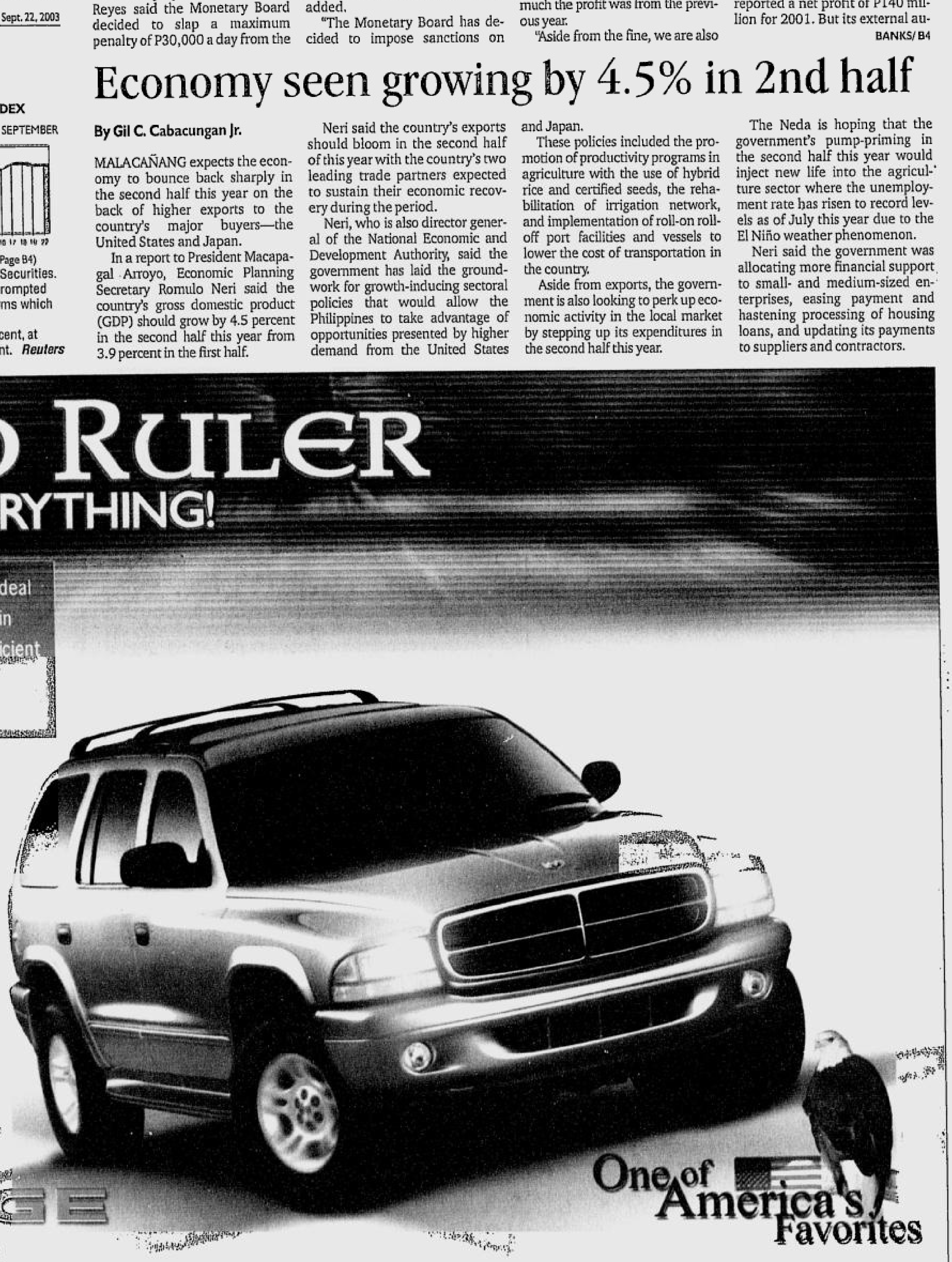

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Gov't to cut tariffs on vegetables

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is not keen on keeping the high tariff shield given to local vegetable farmers due to increasing prices in the market and rising cases of smuggling.

The tariffs on vegetables, earlier raised to a range of 20 to 25 percent to provide farmers relief from the influx of imports, are scheduled to fall to the previous level of 7 percent.

Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo said the department might not support moves to keep it at 25 percent given the results of its assessment on the impact of the higher tariff particularly on prices. Lorenzo said the higher tariffs on vegetables resulted in increases in local prices and higher instances of smuggling.

"We will have to review the impact of tariff reductions on the farmers and consumers again. We cannot ignore complaints over the rising prices and the rampant smuggling of vegetables," said Lorenzo in an interview.

In March, the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters (TRM) Committee had approved a substantial increase in the tariff on vegetables from 7 percent to a range of 20 to 25 percent to protect Filipinos farmers from the influx of cheap vegetables from China and Taiwan.

Business to support RP-US free trade deal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUSINESS community is expected to formally support the proposed free-trade agreement with the United States to help sustain the country's external trade performance even with the collapse of the World Trade Organization talks in Cancun, Mexico.

These business groups—including the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Philippine Industries and the foreign business chambers—will meet on Oct. 4 to formulate a common position on the Philippine-US bilateral trade deal. The consolidated stand will then be forwarded by the business leaders to the government.

"There are indicators that businessmen consider this (FTA with the United States) as a good move especially after what had happened in Cancun, but we still have to concretize our position and gather the common sentiment during the assembly," said PCCI chair Miguel Varela.

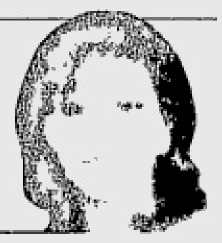
Varela said that if an FTA with the United States would be pursued, the country should push for the inclusion in the agreement of electronics, garments and manufactured products.

PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis was quoted as saying that it was about time the country engaged in bilateral trade deals with trade partners because the Philippines was already left behind by its neighbors in forging FTAs especially with the United States.

"The collapse of the (WTO) talks is to the best interest of the country ... but we must neither stay still nor retreat now. Rather, we have to strengthen our trade relations with old and new partners," said Ortiz-Luis.

The EABC and MBC: Aiming for relevance

MINDANAO ONE



Joji Ilagan-Bian

LAST Sept. 10 to 11, 2003, the 11th Senior Officials Meeting of the Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Malaysia Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) was held in the City of Davao. Having been accorded 5th country status, the East Asean Business Council (EABC), which is the business counterpart in the Eaga region, took its place among the senior officials of the sub-regional cooperation. As deputy chair for the EABC, I joined the EABC delegation headed by our chair, Datuk Hj. Ahmad Ali Bin Lope Abd. Aziz, from Malaysia. We were ably supported by the presence and active participation of EABC adviser, former Senator Vicente Paterno, Mindanao's adopted son and the Asian luminary generally recognized as the father of the BIMP-Eaga.

In Datuk Ahmad's presentation, he enumerated the many activities that the new EABC board has conducted in its quest for a more relevant business sector in the BIMP-Eaga. This includes the private sector's direct involvement in paving the way for new linkages in the Eaga sub-region, such as the bringing in of Layang-layang Aerospace, which shall provide air services between Malaysia and the Philippines; the fulfillment of cross border agreements like the BIMP-Eaga ro-ro highway linking Bitong to General Santos City and Sandakan to Zamboanga, and the Customs Immigration Quarantine and Security (CIQS) to increase the movement of goods and people from one part of the region to another.

Another major project being undertaken by the EABC, with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is the putting up of a transactional website (not just the usual web page limited to providing information), where SMEs can conduct business transactions online.

The EABC's paradigm shift from the usual broad-based promotional activities to actually taking a hand in the setting up of business infrastructure and concrete investment reflects the desire of business organizations to be more relevant to their stakeholders. The latest SOM was an arena for the EABC to say, "The private sector is ready to do business anytime, provided that we get the needed policy from government allowing greater movement of trade and services within Eaga."

The government must also realize that it should ensure that opportunities for growth of private sector are there.

Here at the homefront, the Mindanao Business Council (MBC), in partnership with the League of Corporate Foundations, is drumming up the need for private enterprises to practice corporate social responsibility. Ms Malou Ernie and Ms Vicky Garchitorena have been a valuable help in ensuring that we are able to educate Mindanao-based companies to do their share in social development in the areas where they do business. It will also provide a venue where Manila-based multinational companies could forge partnerships with Mindanao-based NGOs in their social development contributions to Mindanao. The MBC is showing its mettle by participating directly in socio-economic development, business promotion, poverty alleviation and peace-building, especially so because issues like poverty, peace and order, and low SME productivity are a daily concern for us. You now have an MBC that goes beyond policy advocacy and into direct intervention; beyond being project beneficiaries and being the project proponents; beyond the wait-and-see attitude and into the "keep our businesses running" mode.

Right now, the MBC is engaged in various projects that encourage industry development and business participation in conflict areas, like our Formation of Local Industry Development Strategies (FLIDS), a project done in collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO). In a previous issue of this column, I shared some aspects of our forthcoming initiatives on population management and on food fortification promotion. Of course, the MBC is also spearheading the transparency and governance project with the Asia Foundation (TAF). While these three activities are actually more in the realm of social development, the MBC believes that they are crucial to Mindanao's overall welfare.

In the MBC's own bid towards relevance, it has found a valuable partner in the Usaid-funded Commercial Market Strategies (CMS) project. CMS is a global project intended to improve the supply and quality of reproductive health and primary care services and supplies in the private sector. Typical CMS projects include population management, development of NGO primary care clinic networks, support for corporate and community health, and insurance efforts for primary and reproductive health care. Countries with active CMS projects include India, Nepal, Nicaragua, Morocco, Ghana and Uganda.

Here in the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao, the CMS has joined hands with the MBC. What got to my gut about the CMS and its work was the selling point of its business group adviser for communications market strategies, Mr. Cris Frianeza, on their belief that the commercial sector can actually expand the availability of affordable quality reproductive health products and services if markets are large and marketing practices are efficient. Their objective is to create such efficiencies through partnerships with the private sector and the application of commercial approaches. This innovative approach is appealing to the business sector because it allows us to be relevant to the community without sacrificing the entrepreneurial spirit or the commercial character of our activities.

The CMS was also largely instrumental in getting the MBC to link up with other Usaid projects, like the Social Acceptance Family Planning Project, the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (Amore) Program, and the Usaid Micronutrient Program (MOST).

Whether in the BIMP-Eaga or domestically, the MBC aims to make its germane presence more felt. Through these initiatives, we hope to bring more to Mindanao and satisfy the need to make a dent in the hearts and minds of our people—by being relevant.

(Ms Bian is the chair of the Mindanao Business Council and the deputy chair of the East Asean Business Council)

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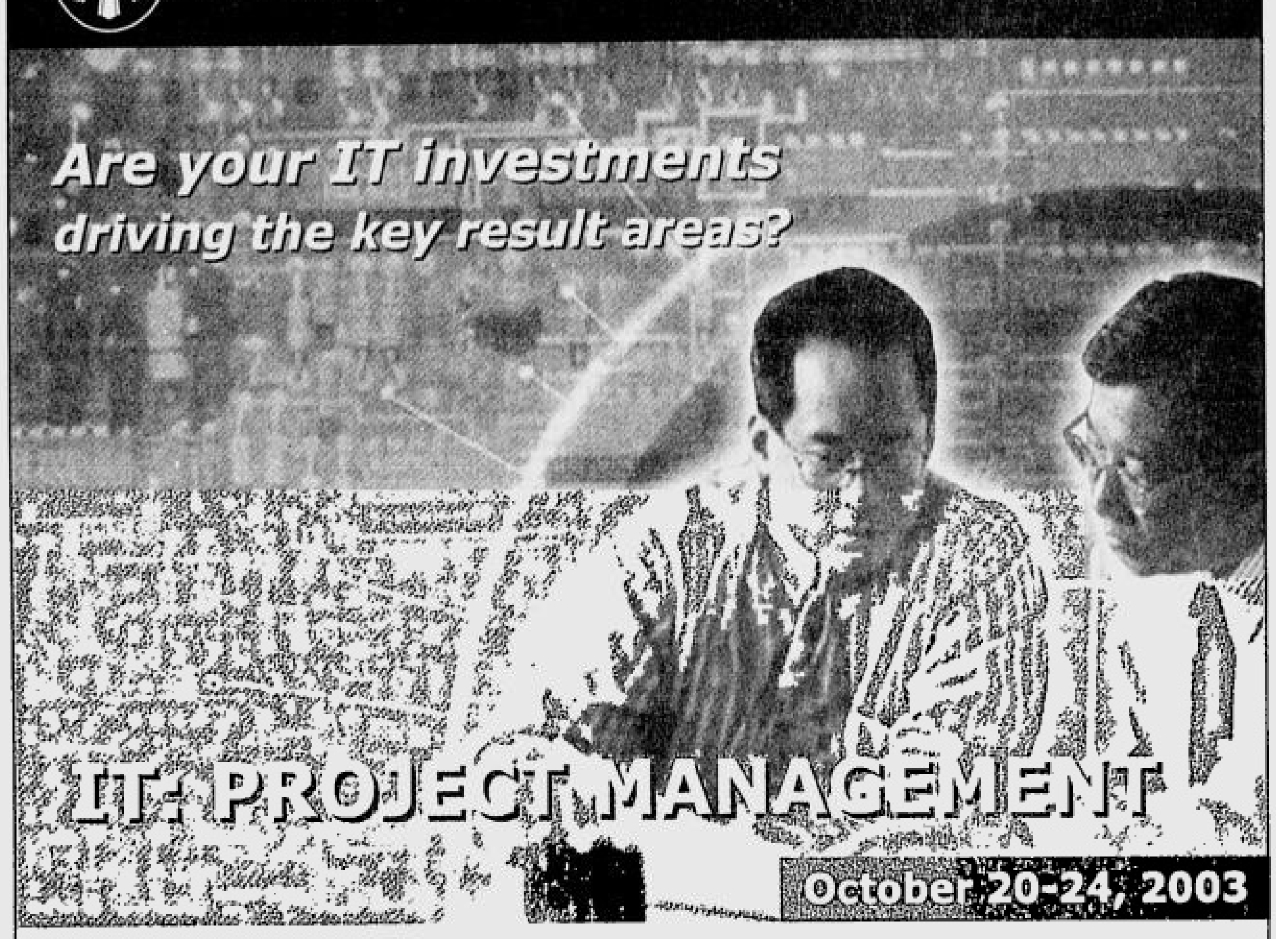
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■ Faculty

Professor ARMI RUBY MARIE H. CORTES is a member of the core faculty at the Center for Executive Education and Lifelong Learning. She teaches Information Technology Management, e-Commerce, and e-Governance. She is an active IT industry specialist for DAI-Agile, an organization under the umbrella of the USAID.

Prof. JOSE JESUS F. ROCES specializes in marketing, finance and human resource development, with particular emphasis on strategic marketing, e-Marketing, and CRM. He has been involved in various organizations with major achievements in the field of marketing, public relations and promotions, market research and development, as well as organization development and planning. He is currently Philippine Marketing Association's Director for International Affairs and is a board member of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation.

Prof. GASTON D. ORTIGAS, JR. is the Pepsi Cola Professor of Business Management. He teaches total quality management (TQM), operations management (OM) and information management (IM), and runs computer-based management simulations and exercises. His current research areas of interest include: sustainable enterprise management, electronic commerce, knowledge management, and flexible learning methodologies.

Prof. ARUP MAITY is the founder and currently President and CEO of Blastasia Inc., a leading provider of Internet-based Customer Relationship Management Solutions. He is a qualified Civil Engineer and had been the director handling the Business Planning Division at Landco Property Holding Corp.

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Sale of China Bank shares boosts market

SOME P1.62 billion worth of shares equivalent to an 8-percent stake in China Banking Corp. changed hands at the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday through a broker affiliated with taipan Henry Sy, boosting the market's turnover above the daily average.

While there was no confirmation on the identity of the buyer and seller as of press time, sources said Henry Sy had edged out fellow taipan Alfonso Yuchengco in increasing stake in the bank.

PSE data showed that 2.46 million shares of China Bank were traded at P660 each, in two cross transactions brokered by Lucky Securities Inc., which is identified with Sy.

Sy's SM group owns 38 percent of China Bank. Reports indicated that the Yuchengco group was also planning to buy the same amount of shares from the International Commercial Bank of China.

The block sale accounted for about 84 percent of the turnover yesterday. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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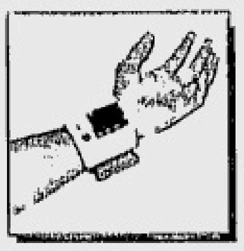

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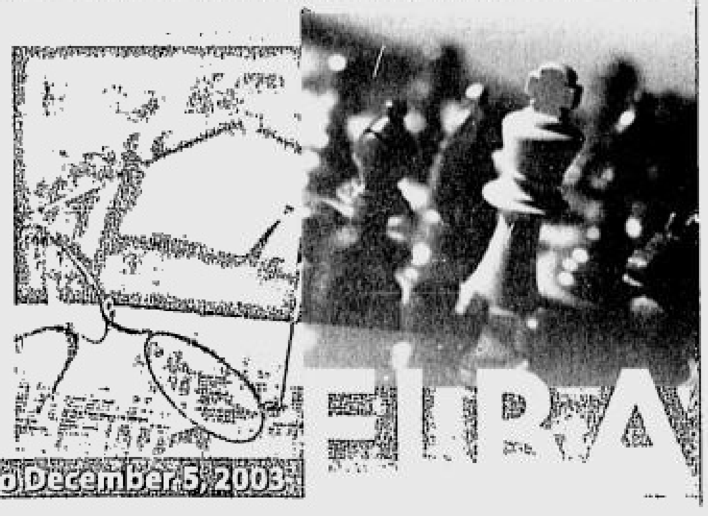

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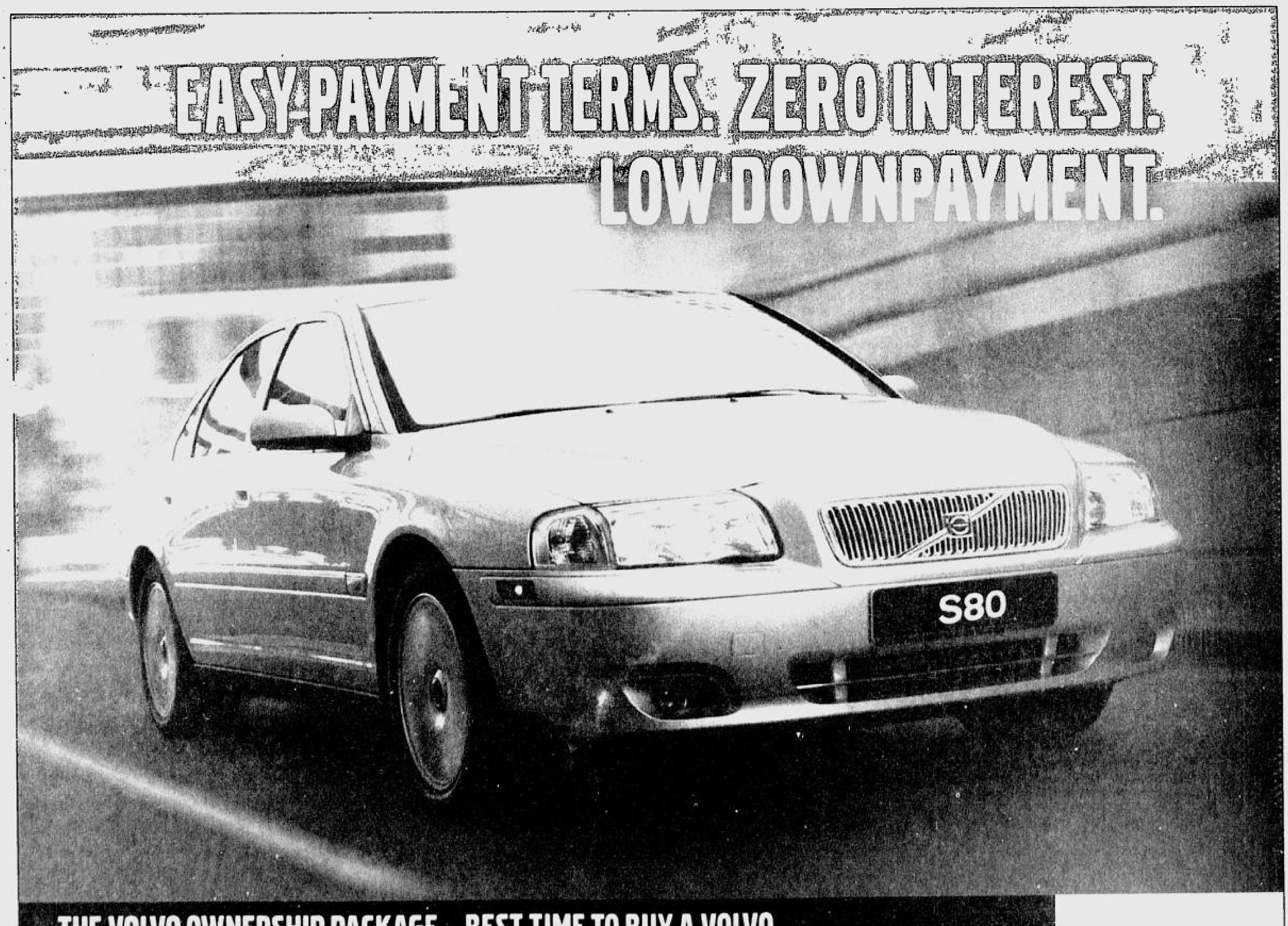

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BOY: hoping to score with girl, "Come over to my place and have a drink."

GIRL: "Okay, but I must warn you that I am on my menstrual cycle."

BOY: "No problem. I'll follow you on my Honda."

President Bush, who is not renowned for his command of the English language, went into a French restaurant with Colin Powell. After studying the menu, he asked the waitress for a quickie. The waitress was shocked. Colin Powell whispered diplomatically, "Mr. President, I think it is pronounced quiche." (keesh) If you do not understand this pun, it is the quiche of death.

As I was getting out of the shower, I was delighted to hear my wife say "So big." I was elated. Unfortunately, she was referring to the Sobig virus, which last month wiped out hundreds of thousands of computers. You can protect your Window's program against this, and also your wife from getting pregnant, by using a patch. These were first used hundreds of years ago by the American Indians who became known as Apaches. My father's name was Sitting Bull, but that is not how I acquired the name of Bear Bull. My wife said I was unbearabull.

President GMA rang up the TV station with the same initials and said, "For the love of Mike, stop talking about my husband."

In Cebu, a number of policemen failed to pass a gun test. One of them could not even get it out of his holster. They sent him to a furniture company to get him upholstered. He re-covered quickly.

Four players were having a round of golf. Suddenly, one of them had a stroke and dropped dead in the bunker. His partner complained bitterly to the scorekeeper. "They are trying to add a stroke to my score."

Here is a question from MENSA. Three men are in a brothel. One is running into the room, one is walking down the stairs and the third is in bed with a woman. What are their nationalities? Russian, Finnish and Himalayan.

What do you call a dwarf in the French subway? A metro gnome. I wrote that without missing a beat. In Switzerland, everyone has a gnome of their own.

What are the Fallopian tubes? A subway in Athens. If you got the last one right, that's eggcellent.

* * *

LAST week's prediction played out exactly as expected. On Monday, the degree of risk indicator gave a BUY and on Wednesday, the double top of 1,308 was decisively broken. I have already sent out my scenario for this week. As I have not found a trainee with a trading license, I will close the subscription list and cut back on replying to the numerous e-mails I receive.

The best way to gauge a country's economic performance is to look at its currency and its stock market. Sometimes, this can be confusing. For example, all the major U.S. indices are hitting 16-month or 18-month highs while the dollar remains weak and is expected to fall further. The latest assessment for the American economy, released last Friday, indicates that GDP will grow by 2.6 percent this year and 3.9 percent next year. This is in line with Alan Greenspan's optimistic view, and the FED has made investors happy by promising to leave interest rates unchanged at 1 percent until the recovery is well underway.

There are, however, some problems weighing on the dollar. In the current year, the deficit is going to be more than $400 billion and next year, it is expected to rise to $480 billion. This deficit has to be financed, even with historically low interest rates, so the currency is likely to remain under pressure. The other problem is that companies are producing higher profits without hiring people. Recessions force companies to become mean and lean, and once the directors realize that they have become more efficient, they are reluctant taking on extra staff unless forced to.

The situation in the manufacturing sector, where two million jobs have been lost, is that factories are only running at 76 percent of capacity, so the outlook for those laid-off is bleak. When I revisited Credit Lyonnais in London, where I worked for 20 years, I discovered that two girls with computers had replaced 10 secretaries, who were shorthand typists. Furthermore, efficiency had increased dramatically so there was no turning back the clock. The best hope is in the service industry where computers and robots cannot replace cooks and waitresses, yet.

If the economy recovers without the creation of many jobs, the country will have a jobless recovery. This has never happened before but we are now in a new technological age, where anything is possible. But if the number of people working fails to increase significantly, how can consumer-spending increase? This accounts for two-thirds of GDP, hence the dilemma as to what the future holds. In addition, there is an election next year, and President Bush, who won with a questionable majority, must be a worried man. With American soldiers coming home in body bags almost daily, he is frantically trying to extricate himself from Iraq by giving them independence too soon, and handing over responsibility to the United Nations, who are not too eager to accept it on his terms.

Tony Blair is in a similar situation. Having invented fictitious weapons of mass destruction, his popularity has declined to such an extent that only 23.5 percent of the electorate regard him as a trustworthy Prime Minister. His Labor Party currently has a huge majority in Parliament but it will be greatly eroded, judging from the latest by-election, in which Labor lost a very safe seat. His party may survive but his leadership may not. There will be an election next spring.

In the Philippines, the peso remains Asia's worst currency. When I last went to Thailand seven years ago, the baht was 24 and the peso 25 to the US dollar. Now, the baht is 40.5 and the peso is 55 plus. Thailand still has problems with non-performing loans and an oversupply of office property, but it has maintained its thriving tourism industry, greatly improved its infrastructure, and is a major exporter of rice, which it produces far more cheaply than we do. Its stock market is up 65 percent this year.

Here, our exports are declining, our trade surplus has turned into a deficit, the number of unemployed has risen to 12.7 percent and under-employed to 21 percent, the highest figure since the year 2000. The budget deficit is $4 billion, but the government had to take over Napocor's huge debts, which effectively increased it to $6 billion. Next year, the government will spend another $6 billion, and interest payable on our bonds already absorb about a third of the government's income. Next year, it will be higher still and it will keep on rising.

The rest of Asia has risen by 25 percent with Japan and Thailand doing better than average. Foreign brokers taking the view that a US recovery must be good for Asian markets', have been increasing their investments across the board. We only got a tiny percentage increase but because our market is so tiny compared with other countries, a small amount of foreign buying is dragging up our market. On fundamentals alone, it does not deserve to be at its present level. There is far too much politicking and it will get worse as the election approaches.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

ALI to issue ₱2B worth of bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Land Inc. is set to issue P2 billion worth of bonds this year to raise funds for capital spending and payment of maturing obligations.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ALI vice president and comptroller Jaime Ysmael said the company's board had approved the borrowing subject to the regulatory requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. and Land Bank of the Philippines were appointed lead managers for the bond issue.

"The bonds will be priced at 100 percent of face value or at par and will mature five years and one day from issue date," Ysmael said.

The issue will consist of fixed-rate and floating-rate tranches with the interest rates to be based on prevailing market rates, equivalent to the applicable benchmark rate plus a margin to be determined through an auction.

ALI is pursuing a number of wide-scale property projects, including those in the Fort Bonifacio Global City in partnership with the Campos group. It is likewise developing Market! Market!, a new shopping complex near the Global City and a number of high-rise residential projects.

This issue follows the successful offering of ALI's P3 billion bonds in April last year. This earlier issuance which is maturing in 2007 currently enjoys the highest rating possible in the rating scales of the Philippine Rating Services Corp.

Globe to issue ₱2.7-B bonds to refinance maturing debts

GLOBE Telecom Inc., the country's second-largest phone firm, said yesterday it plans to issue P2.7 billion worth of bonds to refinance maturing debt.

Globe yesterday filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the registration of its planned P2.7-billion bond issue.

The bonds were assigned a rating of Aaa by the Philippine Ratings Services Corp. (PhilRatings). This is the highest rating a bond issue can receive, signifying that the issue carries the smallest degree of investment risk.

The Aaa rating reflected Globe's strong position in the industry, capable management team backed by strong core shareholders, good earnings performance and strong balance sheet.

"We are proud to have received an affirmation of Globe's strong credit position from PhilRatings. We hope that this show of confidence will have a favorable impact on the company's P2.7-billion bond issue," said Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr., Globe president and chief executive officer.

"We believe that the superior rating we have earned reflects well on the company's delivery of solid financial results and strong growth prospects. In addition, this paves way for even greater access to capital going forward," he added.

Globe, whose main business is cellular phone service, is controlled by local conglomerate Ayala Corp. , Singapore Telecommunications Ltd and Deutsche Telekom AG.

BSP keeps overnight rates steady

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas kept overnight interest rates steady yesterday at its first policy meeting since a mild tightening last month aimed at curbing speculation in the peso.

A BSP official said the policy-making Monetary Board kept its overnight borrowing rate at 6.75 percent and its lending rate at 9 percent.

The central bank brought forward the meeting to Monday from Thursday because several officials are travelling to Dubai later this week for the IMF/World bank annual meetings.

The peso, which weakened to near a record low of 55.75 to the dollar after a failed military mutiny in July, has steadied since the central bank tightened policy at the end of August.

The central bank scrapped an interest rate tiering system, aiming to encourage banks to park funds at the central bank rather than speculate in the currency.

The tiered system on overnight borrowing previously paid a decreasing rate of interest that discouraged banks from making larger deposits with the central bank.

The central bank now pays a flat rate of 6.75 percent.

Reuters

Banks face sanctions . . .

From page B1

ditor SGV & Co. had qualified that the bank should have posted a net loss of P5 billion if it had followed generally accepted accounting principles.

Equitable PCI had charged to its surplus or retained earnings a P4.7-billion provision made for probable losses incurred in 2001.

In 2000, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. reported a net income of P3.1 billion for 1999 but SGV & Co., in its review of Metrobank's 1999 finances, made a qualification that instead of charging an additional P3 billion in loan-loss provisioning to operating earnings, the bank had charged it to retained earnings from the previous year.

Nextmobile firms up backdoor listing via PEP

WIRELESS service provider Nextmobile Inc. has firmed up its backdoor listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange by closing a P6.58-billion share-swap deal with listed movie and entertainment outfit Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PEP president and CEO Anastacio Diaz said the company's board of directors has approved the acquisition of a controlling interest in Nextmobile in exchange for shares of stock.

NextMobile, which is owned and controlled by businessman Mel Velarde, operates the Nextel radio-phone network, which is likewise acquiring a 70-percent stake in cash-strapped telecommunications firm Capitol Wireless Inc.

In line with the backdoor listing, PEP's board has drafted amendments to the company's articles of incorporation, including the change in primary purpose from entertainment to telecommunications.

The amendments will also cover a reduction in the authorized capital from P1 billion to P500 million, and an increase in the authorized capital stock to P7 billion from P500 million to cover the acquisition of a controlling interest in Nextmobile using shares of stock.

Doris C. Dumlao

INTEREST RATES

Sept.22, 2003-
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 22-Sep-03	MART1 19-Sep-03
1 Month	6.3077	6.2786
3 Months	6.3036	6.2857
6 Months	7.1268	6.9633
1 Year	8.1423	8.0786
2 Years	9.3911	9.3983
3 Years	9.9179	9.9567
4 Years	10.3786	10.3683
5 Years	10.6857	10.6717
7 Years	11.3643	11.35
10 Years	11.6375	11.63
20 Years	12.025	12.025
25 Years	12.2769	12.2983

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 22, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.1	4.1	4	4	85,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.5	17	17.5	326,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43	42.5	43	824,800
China Banking Corp.	660	665	660	660	2,461,640
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34	34	200,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29.5	30	130,100
Philippine National Bank	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	59,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28.5	28	28.5	61,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	4	4	4	4	15,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	150	180	112	180	1,080
Manulife Financial Corp.	1715	1720	1700	1720	1,950
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,554,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1220	1230	1215	1230	2,750
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	24.75	25	24.75	25	5,500
Diversified Fin. Network	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.71	0.69	0.71	4,580,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	665	670	660	665	52,580
Ipeople Inc.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.88	20,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	5,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.049	18,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.67	0.74	0.67	0.74	44,730,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	655	655	650	655	20,520
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	7,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	16	15.25	16	264,700
Manila Electric Co. B	23	24.25	23	24.25	1,097,200
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.06	2.02	2.06	2,683,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	15,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	3,400,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.8	205,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.5	3.5	25,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	40,300
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	68,900
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62.5	63	6,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.9	4.95	4,101,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.9	802,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	270,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.78	1.72	1.78	31,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.92	2.22	1.92	2.18	16,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.61	7,870,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	5,900,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	18	18.5	18	18.25	456,000
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	63	63	63	63	1,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.115	0.12	0.105	0.11	170,000
Ionics Inc.	1.74	1.8	1.68	1.7	2,966,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	159,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.96	620,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.32	26,270,000
Music Corp.	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.42	8,050,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.26	0.27	720,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	140,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	150,000
Wellex Industries Inc	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	60,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION& TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	7,000,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	1,500,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	1,270,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	640,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.43	0.45	0.4	0.41	3,300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	25	25	25	25	94,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	5,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	1,818,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	110,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	1,450,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	2,993,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	950,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	310,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	4,444,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	141,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	160,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	9,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	30,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	30,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	15,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000

DISCLOSURES

NEGROS Navigation Co. Inc. disclosed the resignation of Larry Gabriel Ramos as director of the company.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Swift Foods Inc. were Jose Concepcion Jr., Jose Ma. Concepcion III, Francisco Segovia, Felicisimo Nacino Jr., Luis Bernardo Concepcion, Joseph Server Jr. and Senen Bacani.

* * *

EVER-Gotesco Resources Holdings Inc.'s wholly owned subsidiary, Gotesco Tyan Ming Development Inc. will take over the cinema operations at Ever Gotesco Ortigas Complex after its operator, Gotesco Investments Inc. closed down due to the proliferation of home videos and cheap pirated videos.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine bought 145,031 of its own shares at P0.29 per share.

* * *

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 30, 11 a.m. at the Acacia Function Room of Manila Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 6 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought over 1.5 million of its own shares at P1.30 per share.

* * *

PREMIERE Entertainment Productions Inc. bought a controlling interest in Nextmobile Inc. for P6.582 billion. The company will change its primary purpose from entertainment to telecommunications. Also, it will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 24, 3 p.m. at the Metropolitan Club, Makati City.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

September 22, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.879739597	1.000000	55.213000
Japan	Yen	0.00771	0.008764	0.483900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.440398	1.637300	90.400200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112807	0.128228	7.079900
Switzerland	Franc	0.643225	0.731154	40.369200
Canada	Dollar	0.652142	0.741290	40.928800
Singapore	Dollar	0.504872	0.573888	31.686100
Australia	Dollar	0.591342	0.672179	37.113000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.333588	2.652590	146.457500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234578	0.266645	14.722300
Brunei	Dollar	0.503427	0.572246	31.595400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021808	0.024789	1.368700
UAE	Dirham	0.239542	0.272287	15.033800
Euro	Euro	1	1.136700	62.760600
Argentina	Peso	0.302316	0.343643	18.973600
Brazil	REAL	0.30242	0.343761	18.980100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134603	0.153003	8.447800
India	Rupee	0.019175	0.021796	1.203400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231541	0.263193	14.531700
Mexico	New Peso	0.080892	0.091950	5.076800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518592	0.589484	32.547200
Norway	Kroner	0.122704	0.139478	7.701000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.0153	0.017391	0.960200
South Africa	Rand	0.119894	0.136284	7.524600
Korea	Won	0.000756	0.000859	0.047400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025913	0.029455	1.626300

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QUEZON CITY

Cubao 1.4M 10%DP 9132224

*CUBAO CONDO
No D/P Pagibig 0916374151

NEW MANILA Thse 3br attic 7.5M 4121825/0917-7914366

Rush! Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.5M Neg 3br 2tb 0917-8143792

SCT CASTOR NR MORATO 3br3tb1cg 2.8M neg 6873372

The
TOWER
at Emerald Square

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MIRIAM COLLEGE
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P1.4M - UP EASY TERMS
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MANILA

nr UST,Espana Tower
09163741671•09178102903

MARIKINA

B-New Exec. Townhouse Near National Road / Comm'l Area P1.3-2.6M neg. Marikina Area 2-6br Cash/ Term Tel. 9900160 / 4750248

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PARANAQUE

900T Condo Nr Airport
10% DP P9T/mo or 2Yrs No INT. AYALA PROJECT STUDIO-3BR ACROSS SM SUCAT 0917-8313226

APARTMENT

PROVINCIAL

Rush Sale Apartment Bldg. nr. St. Louis Univ 5 flrs w/ guaranteed income call/txt (0918)909-6103

LOT

RIZAL

Rush! PILILLA FARM 24hec. P160/m² 9110735 ; 9115631

BATANGAS

5 - Hect Lot - Sto. Tomas Batangas. Ask P250/sqm Tel. 8105223 / 09272617308

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

★SUBIC 48has@200/m² nego, w/fruit trees 047-9134120

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

5br 2tb w/grg T578-3560

PASIG

3BR Grg 9T 6568371 NuPaint

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

ORTIGAS 2br Cndo 20T All-in Filurn 105m² 412-1625

QUEZON CITY

20T/mo FILINVEST II fullyfurn 09273451913 Jun

SAN JUAN

Ghills FF Stu P11T 929-9835

APARTMENT

MANILA

2br 1tb P8T/mo. Nr Back of Lourdes Hsptl 9162506 Linda

TOO RESOL COML 2STY 2523326

MARIKINA

nr Ateneo 16RTB grg 7T 6810583

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.5T Std Lady 9124428

FOR LEASE

CARSHP FA8 CUBAO 723-3697

ROOM & BOARD

MM.nr Ayala Free Utlty 8979417

BEDSPACE

Pasay Prof 5500254/ 0315020

BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 85/129/148/185m² 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

G/F MALATE OFC 5208048

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

SALARY & BUSS 524-3197

FOR SALE

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  Furnished or Unfurnished
  Studio, 3 BR, Penthouse Unit
- **837 SQM. CORNER LOT**
  Executive Heights Sub'd.,
  Parañaque City

CALL: 852-5790

Republic of the Philippines
Regional Trial Court of Manila
National Capital Judicial Region
Branch 34

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE GENDER OF HEREIN PETITIONER APPEARING ON HER BIRTH CERTIFICATE

CARMENCITA PADER CANAPI-LACHICA
Petitioner

-versus- SP. PROC. NO. 03-107568

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR FOR THE CITY OF MANILA,
Respondent.
x-------------------------------x

ORDER

This is a verified petition filed by the Petitioner through counsel praying among other things that after due notice, publication and hearing an Order be rendered directing the Local Civil Registrar of the City of Manila to correct the wrong gender entry appearing in her birth certificate from male to female.

Finding the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the petition be set for hearing on October 23, 2003 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Branch at Room 546, 5th Floor, Manila City Hall. All interested parties are hereby notified of said hearing and are ordered to show cause why the Petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petition, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to be chosen the raffle pursuant to P.D. No. 1079.

Furnish the Office of the Solicitor General and Civil Registrar of Manila copies of the Petition and of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, August 20, 2003.

(Sgd.) ROMULO A. LOPEZ
Judge

(PDI--Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2003)

VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., Victorias City, Negros Occidental, wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the ***supply, installation and commissioning of three (3) units bagging line system for the Packaging Station of Refinery Department on a full turn-key basis.***

The pre-qualification forms are available at the MCD Office, VMC Millsite and at the VMC Makati Procurement Office during office hours from **September 22-26, 2003**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P300.00. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification papers is on **September 29, 2003.** The pre-bid conference will be held on **October 9, 2003, 3:30 P.M. at the HRD Conference Room, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental.** The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price in the form of Cashier's/Manager's check.

For further inquiries, please contact Messrs. **Carlos S. Quiatchon, Dan C. Labrador or Ramon P. Pun-an** at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers **(034)399-3696, (034)399-3698 to 99 and 2309(local),** and **Mr. Ping A. Abad** at VMC Makati Procurement Office at telephone numbers, **(02)890-5256** and **(02)890-7062.**

Victorias Milling Company, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) CAROLINA S. DIAZ
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

(PDI--Sept. 20 & 23, 2003)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Francisco Gold I EDSA 11T 73.40m² 1cpk All-in 4121825

SALE/RENT Ortigas Ctr. 109.19m² CPK Hi-Flr 4121825

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

'83 A/T WELL MAINTAINED Dark Gray P415T ALL ORIG. Call 09198616193

HONDA

02 CRV A/T P880T 722-2500

MITSUBISHI

'98DELICA EXCEED P270T 4x4 PROJECTOR LAMP CRYSTALITE/HI-ROOF 3609523

TOYOTA

2002 REVO GL 280K w/accs 2yrs ass bal 0919-8237786

'94 Tam FX D-sel 995-0706

96FX 180K Neg 09198237786

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Delica Safari Terrano MU Trooper Lite-Hi Ace Space Gear Serena Vanette Elf Suzuki Canter etc. Trade In Financing w/ Warranty neg A1 9120647; 0917-8342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

A B C CARS/VANS
NEW MODELS W/ OR W/O DRIVER
MLA HO 536-8022 • 303-9789
Q.C. BR. 426-2276 • 426-4084

A*TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/REVO 8006505

Bnew Vans 8254058 8261045

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

STAREX:Low Rates 7415917

Van 0917-8626993 • 6421840

VANS/CAR 741-1356

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% CARLOAN 3736519

1.5% CARLOAN 7880357

1.5% EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLAN 7137284

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

WANTED TO BUY

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ROLEX+OTHERS
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

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5633742 0917-8473744

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BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
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7220433 • 4123543

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Cook w/ exp. Cook Oriental Dish Cash 7440829 / 7442271

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

HOUSE BOY
AGE 20 BELOW • 363-6247

Newly Grad. Auto Mechanic Electrician Welder 363-6247

FEMALE

Weekender Sales Promo White to Fair Complexion P500/day 724-8781, 727-2890

MALE/FEMALE

ACCT EXEC. . 7,290 + Comm Transp Bonus 4363523 / 9950721

CIVIL ENGR./SECRETARY
Call 410-2940

DIRECT HIRE MKTG PERSONNEL 20-45 COLL GRAD/LEVEL W/ W/O EXP 4370454 MS SHIE

FLORIST Artificial 0917-8920765

★Ofc Mktg Staff 7,290 Basic w/ Comm. Allwns 18-45 y/o Look 4 Mr. Roco 8818326 / 8434614

JOB HIRING 09167054572

Mktg Staf 09192535623 GLENDA

MKTG STF 09205921022 SKY

MKTG/OFC STF 0920-8062107

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RTW Consign 09167948002

RTW/BLOUSES P28 727-4934

• TELEMARKETER •
25-40 yrs old w/ Int'l. Travel 20-40T/mnth Call: 812-3118

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE/JUNK ITEMS AND USED TRANSFORMER OIL

"AS IS, WHERE IS AND TAKE ALL" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 07, 2003; 2:00 PM

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the sale of following items:

	ITEMS DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	One (1) lot approximately 12 tons of Wire Rope (16 rolls/bundle) Located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, Calaca, Batangas	P 3.00/kg.
2	One (1) lot of unserviceable Conveyor Belt, approximately 16,400 kg. located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, Calaca, Batangas	P 5.00/kg.
3.	One (1) lot scrap plant/engine parts and radiators, tower parts, air condition approximately 100 tons, located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant, Calaca, Batangas	P 5.00/kg.
4.	One (1) lot of non-moving/unserviceable stock items such as bearing/ flanges, obsolete engine & car parts/accessories and other non-valuable items 13 pallets approximately 1000 kgs. located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 3.00/kg.
5.	One (1) lot unserviceable/scrap assorted printer cartridge & ribbons located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 4,000.00/lot
6	One (1) lot scrap/unserviceable vehicle & heavy equipment approximately 17.5 tons located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 5.00/kg.
7	One (1) lot assorted used/unserviceable tires, 271 pcs. located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 5,420.00/lot
8.	One (1) lot unserviceable/scrap computer, printer, keyboard, CPU, laboratory oven & equipment approximately 2 tons, located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 6,000.00/lot
9.	One (1) lot used/unserviceable batteries, 24 pcs. located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 50.00/pc.
10.	One (1) lot unserviceable power cables, 3 reels, 750 meters, approximately 5.35 tons located at Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant	P 75.00/kg.
11.	One (1) lot used transformer oil, approximately 25,000 liters located at Botocan HEP, Majayjay, Laguna	P 200,000.00/lot
12.	One (1) lot unserviceable power and telephone cables located at Bataan TPP, Limay, Bataan	P 1,192,063.00/lot

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 p.m. of October 07, 2003 at the Materials Management Department Office, Ground Floor, Bldg. I, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read. For bid forms at P500.00 per set, additional information and request for inspection, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call telephone no. 922-8431 or 924-5384. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 4:30 p.m. on October 06, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE;
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY)

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposal as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - Sept 21, 22 & 23, 2003)

BAYANTEL BETTER THAN EVER.

Island Cove RESORT AND LEISURE PARK

BayanTel offer discounts at Island Cove for subs

BAYANTEL is now offering discounts at Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Cavite for BayanTel subscribers. A group of four or more gets an additional free entrance at the Oceania Pool. BayanTel subscribers also get an additional 5% discount on Island Cove room promo package or 50% off on hotel room published rate on weekdays and 30% off on weekends and holidays.

Shown signing the agreement were (from left) Ray Montinola, BayanTel vice president for residential markets; Liza Morales, Island Cove Leisure Park and Resort director for sales & marketing, and Tess Canlas, BayanTel head of subscriber maintenance.

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sales@heritagepark.com.ph

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DEADLINE
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Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"Don't worry Mommy, when we look up to Heaven,
we all say... We love you and we will always remember you..."

Our Dear Beloved Mommy

PILAR M. CUETO-LEACHON

of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

Peacefully joined our Lord Creator
on Monday, 22 September 2003 at the age of 68.

Husband	**Judge Emilio L. Leachon, Jr.**
Children and their spouses	**Jhojo** and **Joey Balbuena, Dr. Tony** and **Dr. Marge Leachon, Marita** and **Francis Ramirez, Lito** and **Alfa Leachon, Marivic** and **Johnny Aliac, Archie** and **Adel Leachon** & **Atty. Doy** and **Rona Leachon**
Grandchildren	**RJ, JM** and **Chi-Chi Balbuena, Mikan, Vana** and **Jolo Leachon, Dianne, Gef** and **Alyanna Ramirez, April, Biboy** and **Mari Leachon, Xerox** and **Marc Aliac, Caroline** and **Buboy Leachon** & **Red** and **Beige Leachon**
Surviving Siblings	**Nydia Cueto-Agarao** and **Dr. Alex M. Cueto**

and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City on Sunday, 28 September 2003 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

PILAR LAGDAMEO ZIALCITA

Peacefully joined Our Lord and her beloved husband Benigno L. Zialcita, Jr. on September 21, 2003 at the age of 94.

Please join her loving children **Danny & Leonor, Manny, Nonny & Cristie;** brother **Benjamin Lagdameo;** grandchildren **Beth, Michael & Lalaine, Franz, Edmund & Ailea, Christine, Bettina & Martin, Bambi & Cris, Benjie, Martin** and **Anton;** great grandchildren and relatives, in prayers for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at the Parish Hall, Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 25, 2003 at the North Cemetery, Quezon City.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer...

Psalm 21:15

MAGNO G. MATELA

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 20, 2003 at the age of 79.

His loving family, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Residential Suite, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on September 27, at the Haven of Rest, Tanay, Rizal after the celebration of the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Tanay Catholic Church.

"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life. I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.." Psalm 23:6

TOMASITA RUIZ FALCON

of Tierra Verde, Quezon City
Bontoc Mt. Prov. and Tabuk, Kalinga

Peacefully joined our Lord on 22 September 2003 at the age of 68.

Her loving husband Pedro; children Rommel and Arlene, Jun and Suzette; grandchildren Brent Jeffrey, Brent Peter, Kristine Mae, Dominic Iniko, Dominic Jiro and Jesus Pedrito, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Message of Thanks

We, the bereaved family of the late

BIENVENIDO M. ARAW, M.D.

Who joined his Creator on September 14, 2003

wish to convey our deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all those who kept vigil with us, sent flowers and comforted us in our moment of sorrow.

Your kind expression of sympathy shall always be remembered.

EDGAR "ETAN" MATIAS COMPETENTE

of Tiwi, Albay

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 19, 2003 at the age of 58

His loving daughter Lulu; brothers Orlando (†) and Corazon, Orfelino and Lucy, sisters Amparo and Florentino Pangan (†), Vilma and Nonito Pacis (†), Patria & Dindo Gutierrez, Thelma & Esmeraldo Velasco (†); nephews, nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Competente Residence at San Lorenzo Street, Tiwi, Albay.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 27, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Saint Lawrence the Martyr Parish Church.

PAZ ESQUIVEL VALDERROSA

Born on May 28, 1926
who joined our Creator on September 20, 2003
at the age of 77.

Her beloved husband Jing Jong; brothers Felix (†), Rustico (†) and Pepito, children Nleel and Baby, Bambi (†) and Joey Candis, Jomari and Rose, Oskie and Rose, Myra and Rashdi Abubakar, JetJet and Kachang Kotaki, grandchildren Aljo, Jika, Noler, Danika, Chieco, Dino, Nikko, Jupjup, Mykka, Kiamee, Dulchi, Kalchi, Saichi, Marika, and Erika request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Chapel C, Guadalupe, Makati City

Cremation will be on Wednesday, September 24, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina

CLASSIFIEDS

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility to bid for:

One (1) Canteen Concessionaire at UP Clark

B. Prospective bidders must have existing canteen concession/s and two (2) years operational experience

C. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Development Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business License/Permit
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "RECEIVED" by the BIR
4. Company Profile
5. List of clients (past and present) with corresponding contract costs, references and supporting documents
6. List of company equipment and other assets
7. Statement of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BID DOCUMENTS

The above mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with Table of Contents and properly tabbed. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO.

NOTE: ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

D. Deadline for submission: October 7, 2003

E. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders

F. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered to be most advantageous to the University.

G. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief-SPMO, anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 920-5374 (direct line) and 920-5301 local 4331, 4991 and 4913, or contact the Business Concessions Office (BCO) at Tel. No. 925-6996 and 920-5301 local 7926.

(Sgd.) EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

(PDI - Sept 23 & 30 2003)

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ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City
Telephone No. 991-1556, 991-1557

INVITATION TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested and licensed suppliers of Water Meters for water supply & Manufacturers of Cargo Trucks to submit bids for the following:

PR/JO No.	DESCRIPTION
6830	Brand New 6-wheeler cargo truck, double tire, with heavy duty hook for towing, standard tools, brand new tires and batteries, diesel engine driven, drop side – 16" high, LTO Registration in the name of the Zamboanga City Water District.
6894	Water Meter, encapsulated register vacuumed sealed in stainless steel body. For Water Meter replacement of N/F, complaints and reconnection of meters.
6887	Water Meter, encapsulated register vacuumed sealed in stainless steel body. For stock replenishment.

Interested suppliers and manufacturers may obtain *Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications* at the BAC Secretariat, 2F, ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., Zamboanga City after payment of a minimal non-refundable fee of P500.00 for PR nos. 6894 and 6887 and P250.00 for PR no. 6830.

Submission of Bids	September 30, 2003 2:00 pm at the 2/F ZCWD Main Bldg. Pilar St., Zamboanga City

The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the supplier whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC I, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
BAC I Chairman

(PDI–September 23, 2003)

Sentricon signs up for Urban Home: Tradeshow

SENTRICON, the revolutionary termite elimination system, joins the list of exhibitors in the first Urban Home Essentials Tradeshow scheduled on October 3 to 4, 2003 at the NBC Tent.

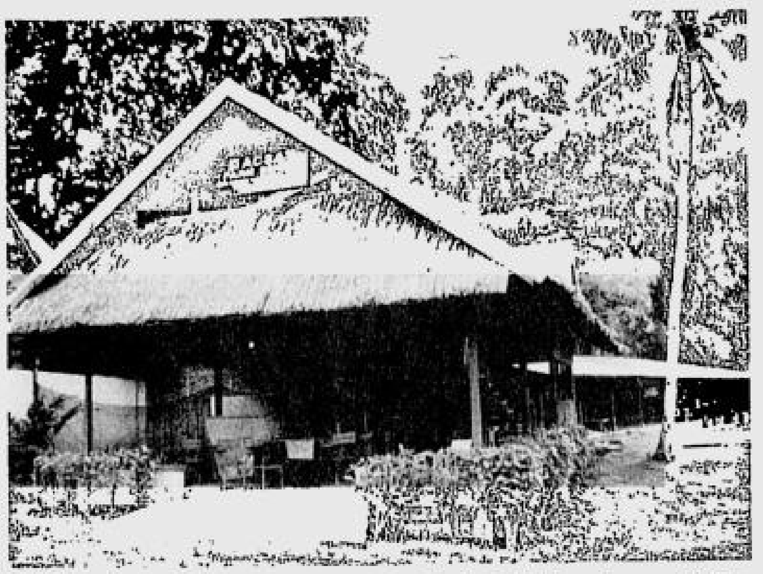
The event offers a wide array of innovative premium products and services through an exclusive gathering of qualify exhibitors each with a distinct offering for the urban home. Pest control management exhibitor, SANITECH-Sentricon Advantage features a systematically effective method of eliminating termite colonies that has been tested and documented in US, Europe and Asian countries. Since the method is non-disruptive to daily activities and provides continuous protection against further colony attacks, Sentricon offers event visitors the best pest management solution for the urban homes.

For exhibit details, call the organizer, Digihomes, at telephone numbers 7712054 / 7712055 and 7712057 or access the event Internet site at http://urbanhome.servicus.ph with email address info@urbanhome.servicus.ph

REALESTATE

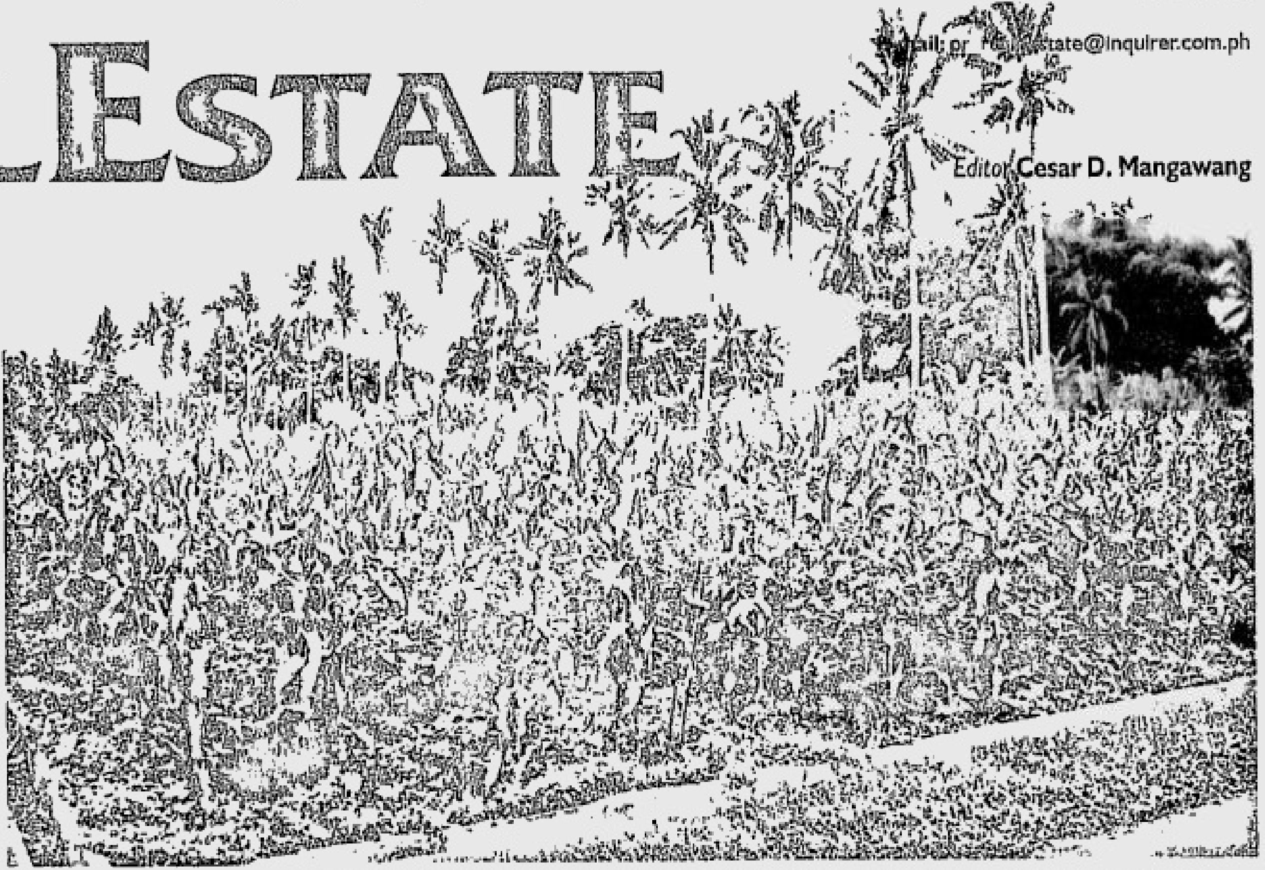
[illegible]ail: or [illegible]tate@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



WITHIN ACSAT Farm compound, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority offers short courses like vegetable technician to poor children of Valencia farmers.

These satellite farms not only prove that technology can help increase farm yield but also serve as role model on how beautiful a farm environment can be to enrich one's living



THIS seven-hectare property in Valencia, Negros Oriental, serves as a model farm where various crops are tested.

IT college leads town's farmland viability

By Charles E. Buban

VALENCIA, Negros Oriental—It may seem odd for a computer school to assist in a town's agri-economic development program, after all, its main thrust should be in providing world-class IT education.

But here in the town of Valencia, some 10 km southwest of Dumaguete City, farmers welcome anyone who would help them.

"When we put up the Asian College of Science and Technology (Acsat) in Dumaguete City more than a decade ago, my father is already thinking of his townmates in Valencia who would someday dream of landing better jobs after graduating, say from an IT-allied course," reminisces Raoul Francisco Sia, Acsat VP for Branches.

"My father asked, if all these young generations would find greener pastures elsewhere, who would be left to tend the farms of Valencia?"

Farming as a viable option

Raoul relates that Valencia is basically a farming town, which depends on coconut and its copra product.

"Since families can no longer depend on copra business, they let their children take IT or other courses so they would one day bail their family out of poverty," he explains.

RAOUL Francisco Sia checks the rows of sweet corn the farm is raising for eventual distribution to the community.

But Raoul's father, Constancio Sia Sr., regretted this thinking and believed there is still hope in farming and with the island's fertile soil, it can be turned viable once more.

"My father believed we need to establish food security first before we can even succeed industrially," Raoul shares.

Land offer

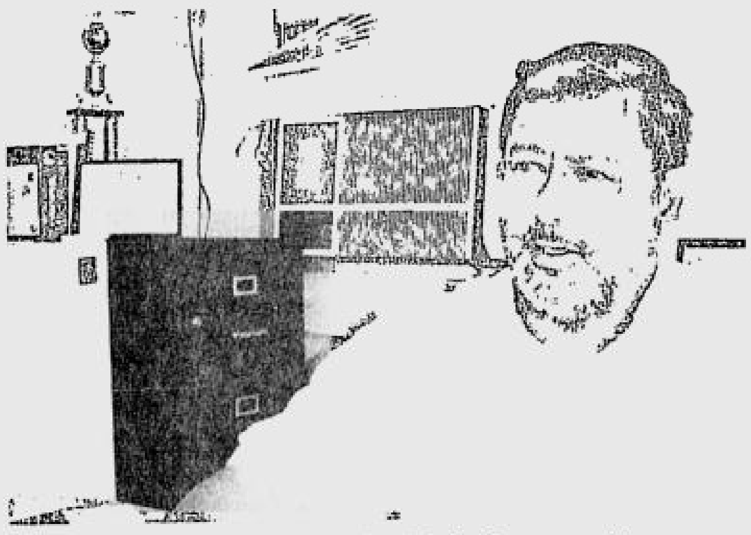
Sia Sr., who is a native of Valencia, offered his 7-hectare property to the local government and called it Acsat Farm, which is actually an experimental farm and training center.

Says Valencia Mayor Rodolfo Gonzalez Jr.: "Perhaps we share the same vision for Valencia but the municipality doesn't have enough money or land, for that matter, to start any project. So when Sia Sr. offered his land, the project took off immediately."

The project, called the Valencia Multi-Purpose Growers and Producers Cooperative, helps small farmlands to maximize their productivity by planting high-value crops and learning the latest farming technology that can maximize farm yield.

At present, Acsat Farm is supplying the seedlings used by satellite farms located in all of Valencia's 24 barangays.

"These satellite farms not only prove that technology can help increase farm yield but they also serve as role model on how beautiful a farm environment can be to enrich one's living," Sia explains.



VALENCIA Mayor Rodolfo Gonzalez Jr. is hoping to turn his municipality into the island's fruit basket and vegetable center.

Acsat Farm has trained technicians who regularly visit these satellite farms to assist farmers and check on their progress.

Unique farming system

In what probably a unique arrangement, the Valencia local government is leasing some of these satellite farms at P5,000 per hectare for two years (contract renewable).

"These farmlands, located in four barangays, have a combined area of 20 hectares and we developed a socialized form of farming where we take charge of the farms' operation, appropriating what type of crop to plant, how much should be planted, when and where to plant and even what sort of seed or fertilizer to use," Gonzalez explains.

This way, the mayor says, this will maximize the yield and earnings of the community and he hopes that other farmers around the community will join the Valencia local government's scheme.

"Valencia town is the reverse of haciendas as farmers here own a piece of land. The problem is we cannot maximize land use, productivity is limited as farmers plant different crops. What we did is to combine each land's potential," the mayor describes.

Influencing others

Gonzalez says this plan is not just limited to Valencia as the municipality is trying to influence other nearby towns and cities of the island to switch to high-value crops and even cutflower business.

"Valencia is a municipality of 25,000 people and is 80-percent dependent on agriculture," the mayor says. "But since the price of copra is very depressed for several years now, we need to do something."

From Acsat Farm, where Sia Sr. planted several high-value fruit trees and vegetables (seedless lanzones or longkong, rambutan, durian, oranges, carrots and cauliflower), the knowledge is being passed through the community with the help of its more than 30 students who are now training as future vegetable technicians.

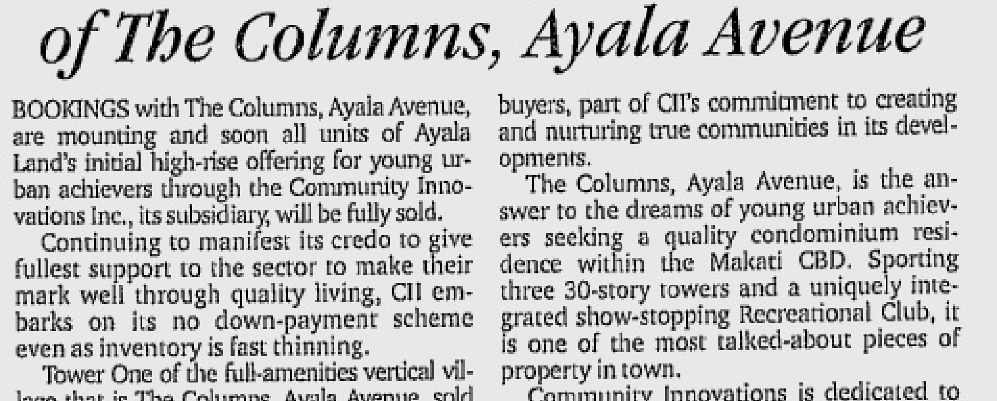
The mayor is hopeful that in six to 10 years, his municipality will be freed from its coconut and copra product dependency.

Money in farming

"We want to tell the rest that one can still earn lots of money from farming," says Gonzalez whose vision is to see the whole Negros island become the fruit basket and vegetable supplier of the region.

To help poor farmers, Sia Sr. helped establish Lihok sa Kauswagan (Movement to Progress), a micro credit institution patterned after the Grameen Bank, which enables those without access to lending institutions to borrow at bank rates, and start a small business.

"We can do it," the mayor brags. "Our partnership with Acsat will show that the government and the private sector can enter into a successful partnership that can help a community rise from economic difficulties."



EARLY takers of units at The Columns, Ayala Avenue, will have the earliest benefits of living in Tower One.

New benefits for buyers of The Columns, Ayala Avenue

BOOKINGS with The Columns, Ayala Avenue, are mounting and soon all units of Ayala Land's initial high-rise offering for young urban achievers through the Community Innovations Inc., its subsidiary, will be fully sold.

Continuing to manifest its credo to give fullest support to the sector to make their mark well through quality living, CII embarks on its no down-payment scheme even as inventory is fast thinning.

Tower One of the full-amenities vertical village that is The Columns, Ayala Avenue, sold out in less than four months. Tower Two has a current 70 percent takeup. As of now, Tower Three launch rites are ongoing.

0-down-payment scheme

Early takers would have the benefit of earliest occupancy in The Columns, Ayala Avenue. The CII continues to provide benefits to its new buyers, now with the zero-down payment scheme which marks the continuing success of the residential condominium complex.

These zero-down payment schemes are designed to complement The Columns' already affordable standard payment schemes, which make The Columns' enviable mix of studio, one- and two-bedroom units within reach of young urban achievers and their families.

Payment schemes can be customized to suit the needs and paying capabilities of individual buyers, part of CII's commitment to creating and nurturing true communities in its developments.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue, is the answer to the dreams of young urban achievers seeking a quality condominium residence within the Makati CBD. Sporting three 30-story towers and a uniquely integrated show-stopping Recreational Club, it is one of the most talked-about pieces of property in town.

Community Innovations is dedicated to providing carefully planned and meticulously designed communities. An Ayala Land company, CII backs its bold mission with the experience and reputation of Ayala Land as the country's leading developer.

Vertical village

Designers of The Columns, Ayala Avenue, have described the emerging community as "a vertical village." The Recreational Club of The Columns, Ayala Avenue, is more than a conglomeration of amenities. It provides areas for the health and well-being of residents in privacy and in community.

The Recreational Club provides features that are the equivalent of those in a country club or posh recreational center. For the cost of a studio, a one- or a two-bedroom unit, the owners of The Columns, Ayala Avenue units gain the equivalent of a club membership—a major plus.

Making building or remodeling a house easier, more economical

INTERSPEC Corp. recently went online when it launched www.myinterspec.com, a Web portal, which can make building or remodeling a house, office or store easier and more economical.

The firm created waves in the local construction scene when it released the Interspec Construction Information Source CD last March.

The Builders Bible

The CD is a comprehensive directory of construction professionals—architects, interior designers, engineers and the like—and construction suppliers and service providers. Hence, its moniker, The Builders Bible.

Updated every six months, the CD is available for free to construction professionals. With the said CD, bulky directories and voluminous brochures are deemed obsolete. Canvassing for supplies and linking up with other construction practitioners have also become easier. This is why the Interspec CD has increasingly become an important tool for every construction industry practitioner.

Internet portal launch

With the launch of the Interspec Interner portal, however, new doors have been opened to everyone, including the average Filipino.

"For starters," said Interspec president Irene Pineda, "the CD has been incorporated into our website, making it an extensive directory where you can search for construction professionals, suppliers and service providers.

Site visitors can access virtual catalogues, read articles, view product and company profiles to educate and equip them while shopping for the appropriate professionals and products for their construction requirements. Hence, canvassing for the supplies and services has become a breeze.

The site also has a chat room and a forum where one can post queries or link up with the right professionals and suppliers for a certain job. It also offers downloadable CAD files, essential letters and standard documents and others.

Home construction manual

A very helpful feature, especially for laymen, is the home construction manual. It offers pointers about getting construction financing, getting building permits, a preconstruction checklist and other helpful tips.

The manual also offers a "construction schedule guide" so that a person who is having his house built will have an idea what parts of his house should he expect to see finished at certain periods during construction. This will prevent unscrupulous contractors from pulling a fast one on him.

Sentricon educates students on termite 'busting'

WHEN voracious and destructive termites strike, what do you do? Spray on voluminous amounts of pesticides. Well, maybe not. Gone are the days when pesticides reign over termite colonies lurking in our homes, offices or schools.

At a recent seminar titled "An Insight on the Structure of Pest Control Industry in the Philippines" held at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, students of the Department of Entomology got a glimpse of the local industry's move to adapt to a pest control management system that works efficiently without the pesticides.

Knowing termites

According to main speaker Didi Gonzales, president of PestCon Pest Management, it is important for future entomologists to know their insects.

He said knowledge about insects makes it easier to identify which form of elimination is necessary. In his presentation on the bioecology of termites, Gonzales discussed, among others, the classification of termites, feeding behavior and habits as well as how damaging one type could be.

Gonzales is optimistic the P1.4-billion pest control industry will go up in the next six years.

Termite busting technology

It was actually the first time Sentricon participated in a forum for students. Sales and marketing manager William Panuelos said the activity served as a relevant venue to share the company's revolutionary product with future industry professionals,

Sentricon's Termite Colony Elimination System is an innovative system developed by Dow AgroSciences using a baiting technology to exterminate annoying little creatures. It employs an active ingredient called hexaflumuron that is known to stop the molting process of termites. Once it hits the workers or soldiers, the whole colony cannot sustain itself and eventually, wiped out for good.

Sentricon's three-step process: detection of termites, elimination of colonies and preventive protection against reinfestation through monitoring of a highly trained authorized operator ensures every property receives long-term protection from possible termite attack.

Elmer Baradas, president of Entom Pest Control and General Services Corp., was on hand to conduct an actual demonstration. He explained the components and functions of Sentricon stations, the Baitube device and bait among others. He emphasized that "monitoring is key" with Sentricon.

Sleeping safe and sound in your home

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

SAFETY and comfort is top priority for the homeowner. We always want to be away from accidents, fire, burglars, air pollution, noise, etc. A safe home is a must so we can fully enjoy the benefits of home ownership.

Home security and safety is a concern that is as old as the first bolted door that was designed several centuries ago. If you look at ancient houses, churches and buildings, it is almost impossible for you to get out if ever you are locked inside these structures. Just look at the main doors of Spanish era churches that we have.

Safety concerns regarding homes can be many and are generally categorized into a few major groups:

Safety against intruders

One can easily get overwhelmed with the available security systems these days. These include automatic alarms, camera surveillance systems, automatic warning lights, etc. But all of these systems have one major objective—to make it very difficult, if not impossible for potential intruders from breaking into your home.

Here are some safety tips against intruders:

If you regularly leave your home with no one to look after it for several hours within the day, make sure that the locks that you use are strong enough and are working. These locks can be used for the main doors, windows and other access doors. Given a choice, burglars will tend to enter a home with a weak lock than one with a very strong lock that is very difficult to destroy.

Never leave your spare keys under the front mats or within the home premises. Family members commonly practice this if there is only one set of keys. Make sure that each family member has its own set of keys so you do not have to worry about leaving a set within the premises.

Several alarm systems are available in the market. If you are considering one, make sure that all options are explained to you in detail. It is important that the alarm system that you install in your home could cover the risks that you want to be protected from. The cost of these systems varies and can skyrocket to hundreds of thousand of pesos.

Safety against fires

Make use of smoke detectors to warn you of fire in the house. Remember to change the batteries of these smoke detectors once a year. If it is hard for you to remember the date to change them, do it every time you celebrate your birthday. By this, you will always remember.

Have a fire extinguisher on hand. There are three general classes of fires and fire extinguishers are labeled designating the type of fire that the extinguisher can handle. The most common home fire extinguisher system is the ABC type that can put out the three classes of fire.

There is a small gauge that indicates the condition of the chemicals inside the extinguisher. If it says recharge, have the extinguisher checked and refilled.

If you cannot extinguish the fire, leave the house immediately and call the nearest fire station.

Safety when working at home

No matter how careful you are, accidents in the home can still happen. You should take the necessary steps and precautions to prevent or lessen the impact of these accidents. Here are some of the steps that you can take:

- When working on roofs and heights, always have a partner on the ground to hold the ladder while you are up. Never use a ladder alone.
- Always wear the necessary safety equipment when you are doing home repair work yourself. If you will be using a machine to plane and smoothen things, then safety goggles are a must.
- When climbing roofs, make sure that you are not too near electrical posts. Many fatal accidents have occurred due to electrocution.
- Use adequate anchor equipment when working at high places.

Being always ready

As hard as you try to prevent it, accidents do happen and you do not have a choice but to be careful and prepared in case it happens. The Boy Scout motto of "Laging Handa" applies perfectly. The following list would prepare you better:

- Have a first aid kit ready at all times. By its name, it is just for first aid and proper medical treatment should be administered for injuries after initial first aid treatment is administered.
- Practice emergency procedures with your family for the reward can be life itself. Make sure that you have identified fire escape routes for everyone in the house.
- Have a written list of emergency contact numbers near your telephone. This includes telephone numbers of the police, fire station, hospital, ambulance service, the village security and even your next-door neighbor.
- Do not store flammable materials that can easily ignite when heated. This includes paints, varnishes and gasoline.
- Repair defective electrical appliances promptly. By doing so, you would prevent these from starting a fire. Never repair appliances if you are not equipped to do so. You may have to ask the manufacturers to repair these for you.
- Use extension cords limitedly. Exposed cords can easily be skinned and cause a short circuit within the electrical system.

When you feel that you are ill equipped, it is best that you bring in a qualified professional to do the job. Never assume that you know what to do if you have never done the thing before.

(For comments and advice you may reach Alexis A. Acacio at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.)

ROBINSONS SHOPPING MALL NEARS COMPLETION
Robinsons Place Lipa is now structurally completed. Present at the topping-off rites of Robinsons Land's 14th shopping mall are Jun-jun Abcede of D.A. Abcede; architect Nicky G. Villanueva, Robinsons Malls VP for corporate property planning; Lipa city engineer Nerio L. Ronquillo Jr.; GM Nilo S. Mapa; Monolith's Manny Mendoza; engineer Joe San Buenaventura of World Engineering; tenant mix director Lulay Alano and VP for lease Minda V. Carpio, both from Robinsons Malls. Upon its completion in the last quarter of this year, this two-level shopping mall will house Big R Supercenter, the Robinsons department store, Handyman Do It Best and Robinsons Movieworld.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

NREA-PIEP confab set Sept. 25-27

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association and the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners is teaming up for the first joint national conference and trade exhibits slated from Sept. 25 to 27 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City. With the theme "Global trends: Urban and Regional Development in the 21st century," the event aims to further develop the urban and regional areas in the Philippines to alleviate the impact of an ever-increasing exodus of people. As NREA and PIEP hopes to lay down the foundations of future plans and development, delegates from the public and private sectors will tackle the national issues on the creation of model communities; future development needs, including requirements for development guidelines and financing, where the roles and partnership among the trade professionals, decision-makers and of the public are of critical importance.

EASY PAYMENT OPTIONS
An Empire East consultant explains the easy payment options available to prospective buyers. Leading township developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. is exhibiting until Sept. 30 its Cambridge Village project at the ground level of the Ever Gotesco Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

Xanland Place brings home closer to schools

XANLAND Place on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, is a 17-story residential, commercial and office condominium especially conceived to suit the needs of the academic community where it is situated. It is currently undergoing the finishing stages of construction.

At the forefront of this innovation in property development is Xanfirst Realty Corp., owner and developer.

Strategically located within the University Square of Quezon City—the home of well-known schools such as the Ateneo de Manila University, Miriam College, University of the Philippines, St. Bridget School and the Philippine School of Business Administration—it offers the academe and businessmen alike a comfortable hub to reside as well as do business in.

"We are situating a home within a school community, rather than a school within a home community," says Xanfirst Realty CEO Elena Tanyu-Coyiuto.

Xanland Place's unique features and amenities revolve around the concept of living and learning. Its residential suites ranging from one- to two-bedroom units were designed to suit various lifestyle needs.

There are the Academy Café at the grand lobby, a well-maintained lap swimming pool at the roof deck, a fully equipped gym and viewing deck.

Since it is also near residential communities such as La Vista, Loyola Heights, Loyola Grand Villas, Ayala Heights, Capitol Golf Hills and Xavierville, Xanland Place likewise makes for an ideal business center.

Three floors are allotted for commercial and office spaces. A 24-hour security assures tenants of safety.

Xanland Place was designed by Robert Carag Ong and Associates with Datem Construction as contractors. It is envisioned to be comparable to the prestigious academic hubs in California and New England in the United States where the environment is centered on activities that inspire the youth to learn and lead productive lives.

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Exclusive haven launched in Carmona

By Charles E. Buban

DMCI Homes recently unveiled last week a new housing project at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club ballroom in Carmona, Cavite.

Designed as an exclusive development, Villa Alegre will offer only 210 lots as well as house and lots ranging from 98 to 189 square meters (lot area) and a total of 157 sq. m (two-story, three-bedroom single-detached).

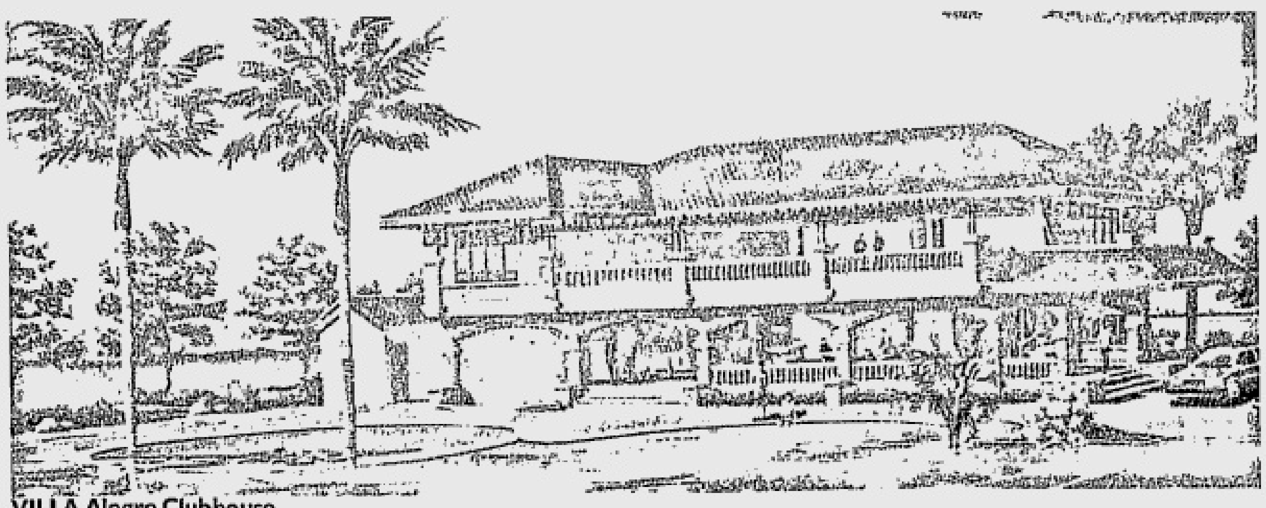
Lot prices range from P1 million to P2 million or even as low as P8,603 in monthly amortization through Pag-Ibig financing.

"Villa Alegre is perfect for those soon-to-be married couples, newly married and even those already starting a family," advised DMCI Holdings president Isidro Consunji.

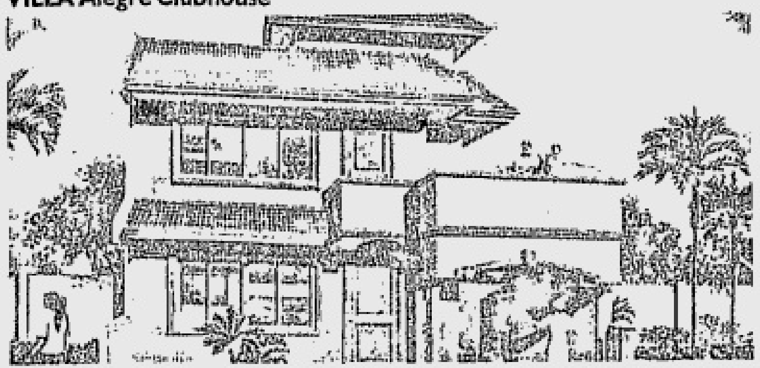
High-end facilities

Villa Alegre offers high-end recreational facilities such as well-equipped multilevel clubhouse with function rooms, adult and kiddie swimming pool, basketball court and playground.

The property also has an entrance gate, perimeter wall, elevated water tank and 24-hour security.



VILLA Alegre Clubhouse



ARTIST'S concept of the two-story unit

Conveniently located on Loyola Street in Carmona, Villa Alegre is 48 km from Filinvest Corporate City and very near the Southwoods Golf and Country Club, Enchanted Kingdom, Southville International School and Waltermart Carmona.

"Residential communities are where the market is as most of the sectors are still recovering and foreign investors are not coming in," added Consunji.

50 years

DMCI has been in the construction industry for almost 50 years and has been known for landmarks such as the UP Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Ayala Tower One and Rockwell Center.

To diversify from its traditional business of infrastructure development and commercial building construction, DMCI Homes was established to offer elegant, affordable, accessible and secured urban homes.

The thrust of DMCI Homes is developing and constructing small middle-income residential communities, with no more than 400 units per community. DMCI Homes also manages the entire community it has built—from maintenance to troubleshooting.

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Marikina, Puerto Princesa model cities featured at Creba-HUDCC convention

MARIKINA and Puerto Princesa cities will be presented, along with other Asian urban centers, as striving models of sustainable urban development during the 2003 joint national convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) at the Mimosa Leisure Estate in Clark Field on Oct. 2-4.

With the theme "Sustainable Urban Development: A Key Towards A Strong Republic," the convention will focus on the key issues of housing and sustainable urban development, according to Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. and overall convention chair Pedro C. Tario.

First plenary session

In the first plenary session on opening day, Dr. Nathaniel Von Einsidel, president of the Urban Partnerships Foundation and former regional coordinator for Asia Pacific and United Nations Urban Management Program based in Bangkok, Thailand, will discuss "Building Sustainable Cities of the Future: A Challenge to Local Governments." Einsidel is a former Creba national president.

Foreign and local models of sustainable urban development will be presented by Dr. Bill Barron, associate professor, Centre for Urban Planning and Environmental Management of Hong Kong; Dr. Belinda Yuen, Department of Real Estate, National University of Singapore; Tan Chen Meng, senior vice president, Ifca MSC Berhad, Malaysia; Marikina City Mayor Ma. Lourdes C. Fernando, and Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

HUDCC vice chair Amado S. Bagatsing will be the moderator for this session.

The convention coincides with the 30th anniversary of Creba as the largest and oldest industry organization. It was formed to buttress efforts to make housing and urban development a major pump-primer of the national economy. Creba has been serving as an active industry advocacy group with an eye on public welfare and overall national development.

Second plenary session

During the second plenary session, HUDCC chair Michael T. Defensor will talk on "Urban Development and Housing Framework"; Bagatsing on "Private Sector Housing Delivery and Regulatory and Shelter Finance Reforms"; Sen. Francis Pangilinan Jr. and Rep. Prospero C. Norgrales, respectively, chairpersons of the Senate and House housing committees, "Updates on Congress Housing Agenda"; Philippine Veterans Bank president Ricardo A. Balbido Jr. and Philippine National Bank president Lorenzo V. Tan, "New Government Financing Institutions' Funds and Strategies for LGU-initiated Housing and Local Development Projects"; Pag-Ibig Fund president Romero E.S. Quimbo, "New Pag-Ibig Fund Financing for Low-cost Medium and High-rise Buildings"; National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. president Angelico T. Salud, "NHMFC Mortgage Programs"; and Home Guaranty Corp. president Gonzalo B.A. Bongolan, "Recent Developments in the Guaranty Program."

Interior Secretary Jose D. Lina will talk on "Value of Sustainable Urban Development to Local Government Units"; Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board chair and CEO Romulo Q. Fabul, regulatory aspects of sustainable urban development; National Housing Authority general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan, production aspect of sustainable urban development; Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority president J. Antonio Leviste, PLRA objectives and functions; and DENR Undersecretary Mylene Albano, Land Administration and Management Program (LAMP) which seeks to establish a single land title registration system.

National forum

Dulalia and Tario said the convention will be a national forum through which industry stakeholders will address current housing and sustainable urban development issues and strategies.

Thus, they said, emerging ideas and existing programs will be examined. Special focus will be on the efficient use of real estate assets through vertical development such as medium-rise structures, available credit facilities, especially for local government units housing projects and the thrust in expanding the network in the international market, and a business matching program.

Bagatsing and Creba executive vice president Purita R. Soliven are overall convention co-chairpersons.

How to brighten up your homes

LIGHTING answers both practical and decorative needs. More than just a source of illumination, it can also function as an accent piece. Handyman and Handyman Do It Best share these ideas in creatively brightening up your home while cutting down on electrical costs:

- **Think layering when deciding on the lighting fixtures for your room.** A hanging fixture is ideal for general lighting while recess lighting is best to illuminate specific portions.
- **Decorative lighting must be kept simple and functional.** Chandeliers and ceiling fixtures for instance must not only serve as accents but also double as general illumination.
- **One way to conserve energy is by using dimmers.** Dimming ballasts or switches not only offer softer hues and evoke drama in a room. They also reduce the voltage in lamps and bulbs, thereby prolonging their life span and cutting down on energy consumption.
- **Maximize the use of natural daylight.** Landscape features such as carefully trimmed shrubs and trees, reflective window sills and properly angled venetian blinds help direct natural light through windows. Taking advantage of these factors will help reduce as much as 60 percent of electricity costs.
- **Replace regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.** These use 70 to 80 percent less energy than standard bulbs and may come with an adaptor to screw into regular sockets.

Raffle promo

Now is the best time to make those lighting changes in your home. Handyman and General Electric are giving you the chance to win one of seven GE appliance showcases in a raffle promotion dubbed "Premyo Wow sa Ilaw."

From Sept. 15 up to Oct. 19, a minimum purchase of P300 inclusive of P150 worth of any GE lighting fixture entitles you to a raffle coupon and a bonus 5 percent discount coupon on GE flashlights.

Handyman and Handyman Do It Best Home Centers also offer a "Brighten Up Your Home Sale" until Oct. 2.

Classes and demos

Don't miss these practical do-it-yourself tips in a series of instructional demonstrations: Scotch Brite's "Cleaning Techniques for the Modern Housewife" on Sept. 20-21 at Handyman Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Ermita.

Learn more about "Easy Toilet Repair" in a one-hour class to be held on Sept. 27 in Robinsons Metro East; "Easy Installation and Maintenance of Laminated Floorings" on Sept. 27 at Robinsons Galleria.

All classes and demonstrations are for free.

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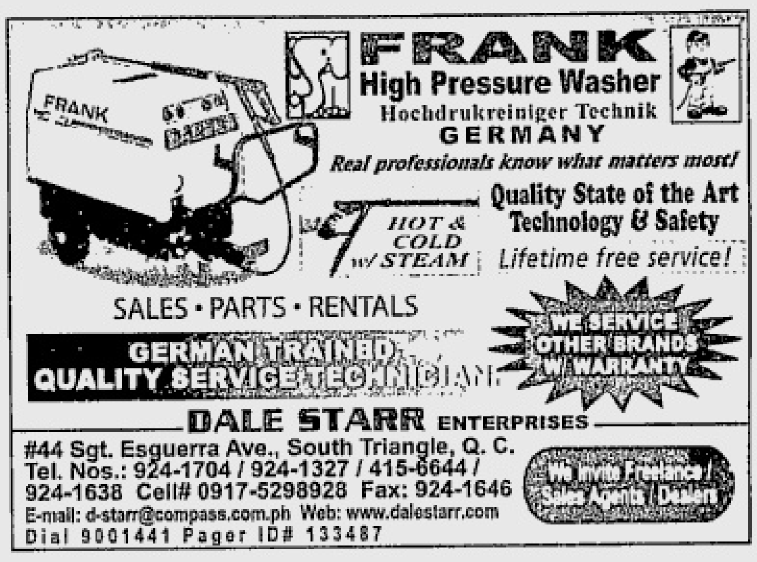

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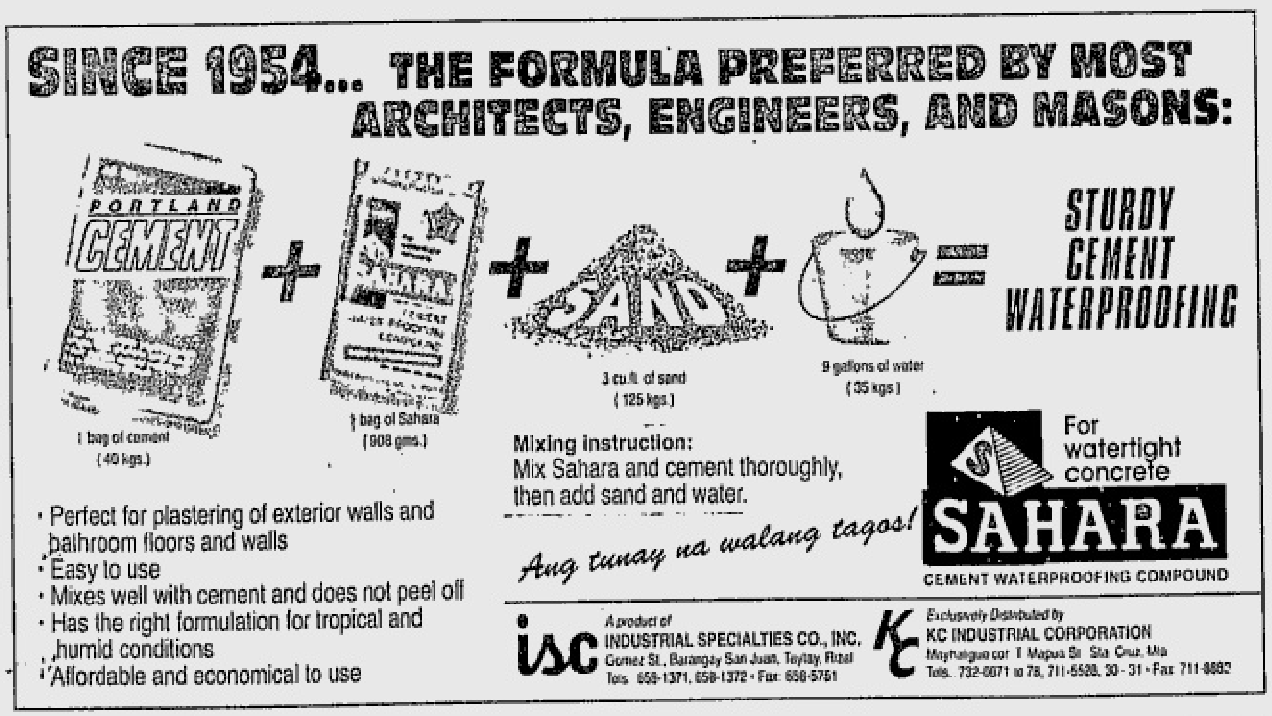

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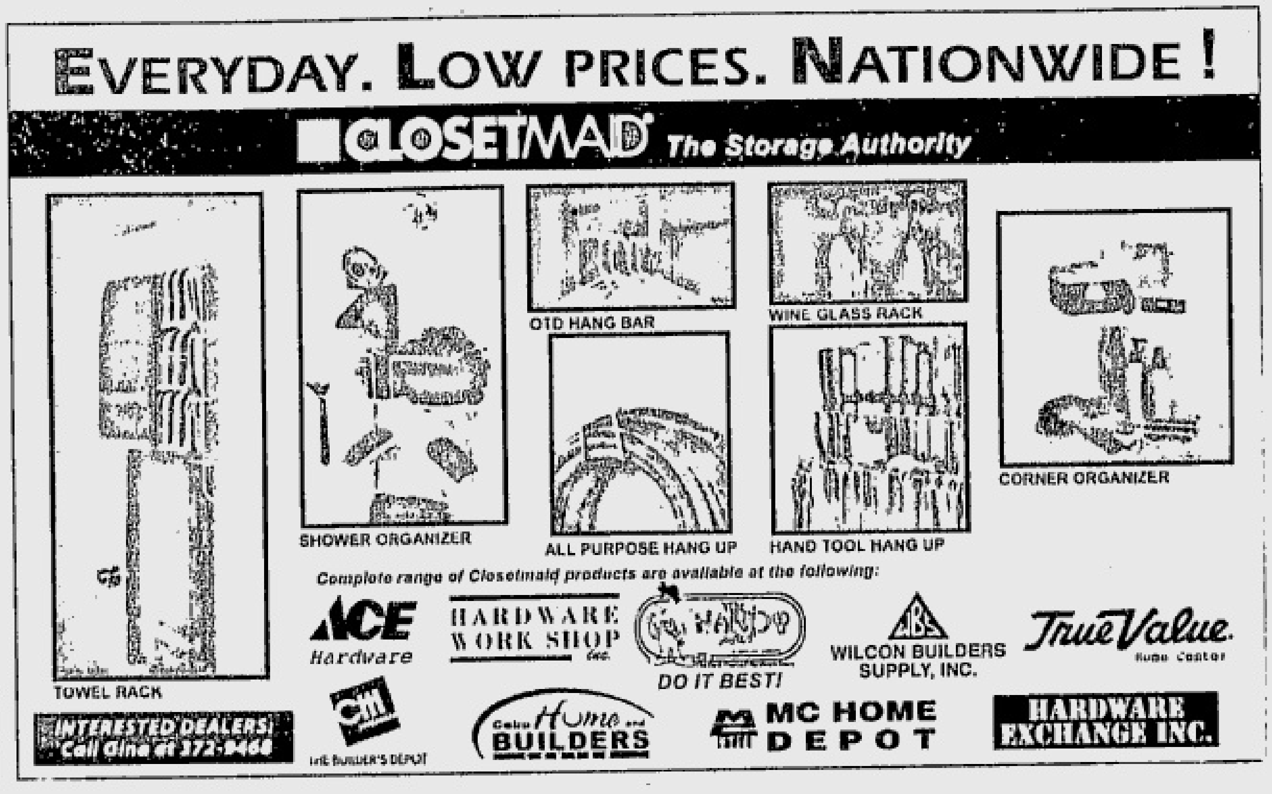

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RP, UAE sign taxation treaty

By Elena R. Torrjos

DUBAI, UAE—The Philippines and the United Arab Emirates yesterday forged an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal deviation involving taxes on income and capital.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho signed the agreement on behalf of the Philippines while his highness Hamdan Bin Rashid al Maktoum, Minister of Finance and Industry signed for the UAE.

"This will help encourage investments from the UAE to the Philippines. This will be a big advantage for the Philippines considering that the UAE is a capital abundant country," Camacho said.

The agreement provides that when a UAE company invests in or earns from operations in the Philippines, it will be taxed only once.

"We will expect more investments from countries where we have tax treaties," Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran said. Two years ago, President Macapagal- Arroyo had signed a similar agreement with the government of Bahrain.

Agreements such as these are seen to boost the flow of foreign direct investments to the Philippines, which had seen a lower-than-expected investment inflow this year due to global developments and political uncertainties.

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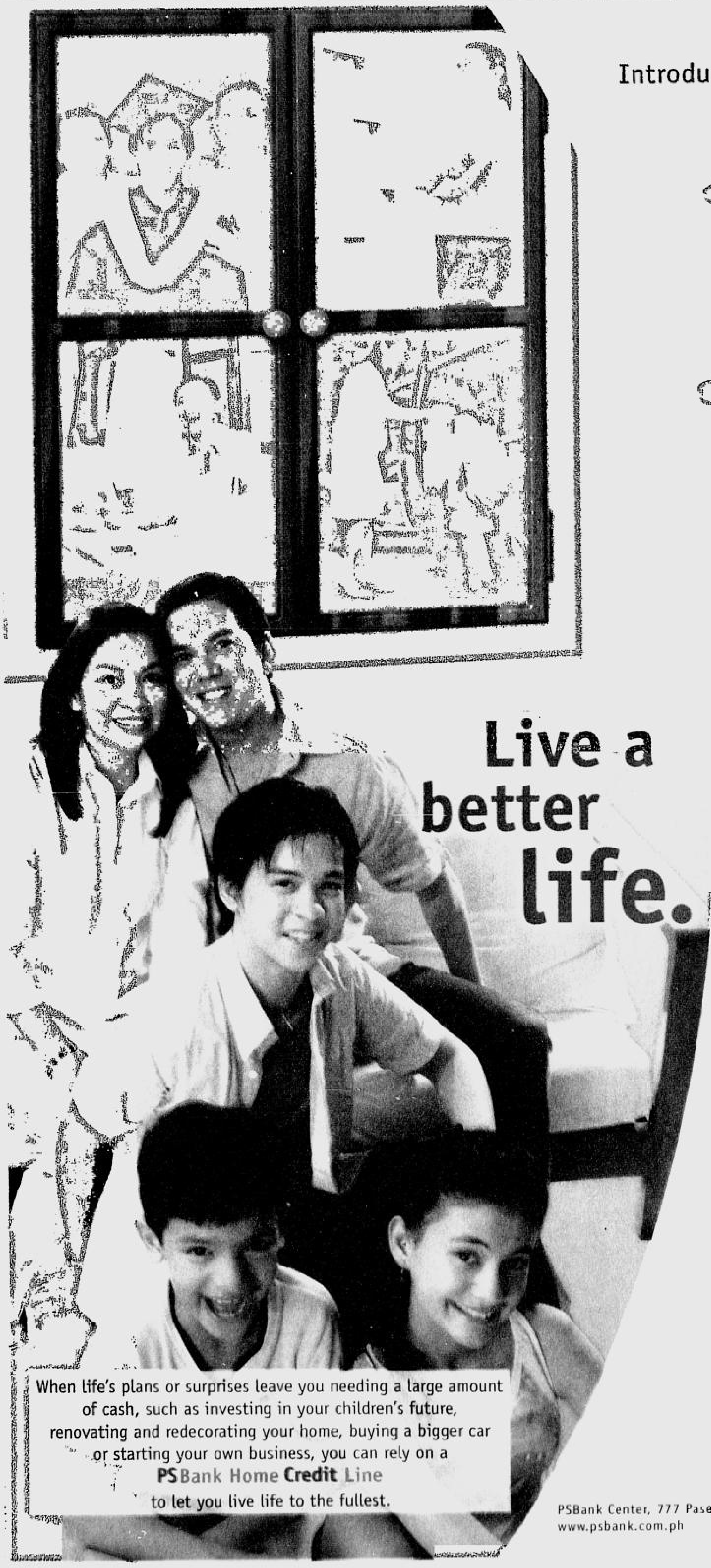
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Why badminton injuries happen

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IN CASE you haven't noticed, badminton has made a comeback in a major way. Once just another amenity offered at sports clubs and country clubs, badminton is now played in multiple courts (as many as 12 courts sometimes) in the most unlikely places.

Take a drive from South Super Highway to C-5 and you will see banners proclaiming the opening of the latest badminton centers. The cutest name I have seen so far is Shuttle's Best. Badminton centers are also cropping up in Cebu and Davao.

No one really knows exactly why badminton has taken off with such fervor here in the Philippines in the last two years. Some people credit Lotlot de Leon for starting the craze because she lost a considerable amount of weight a while back playing badminton. Whatever the reason, people who had previously no interest in working out are now driving up sales for badminton racquets, shoes and other accessories.

I think this is great because it's not easy to get people off their seats and into an active lifestyle. So whatever gets them moving is a good thing.

Not-so-good side

Unfortunately, there is a not-so-good-side to this badminton frenzy. And that is the rise in badminton-related injuries. One reason for the increase in injuries is simply statistical. Badminton is not a super-dangerous sport but when you have 10 times more people playing badminton compared to a few years ago, naturally the number of injuries will also increase because of the sheer number of people playing.

But the major reason for the increase in injuries, according to sports medicine and orthopedic surgeon George Canlas of St. Luke's Hospital, is that people flocking to play badminton are mostly unfit because they haven't exercised in years.

No one quite remembers who first said this but it is now considered a truism in exercise science: "You don't play a sport to get fit; you get fit to play a sport."

What this means is that all sports require some level of fitness to be able to play relatively well without injuring yourself. If you have been gathering moss for the last 10 years and you suddenly play badminton five to six times a week, don't be surprised if you get hurt.

This exercise axiom also means that if your only form of physical activity is playing the sport, the muscles that are primarily used when you play become much stronger than the muscles that are not used as much and this creates an imbalance that can lead to an injury later when the "weakest link" gives way. This is why serious athletes still continue to lift weights and do stretching exercises as a "foundation" to playing their sport at the top of their game, both in terms of performance and lowering the risk of injury.

Common injuries

Canlas says the four most common injuries he sees among badminton players are "tennis" elbow, knee problems, wrist and Achilles tendonitis.

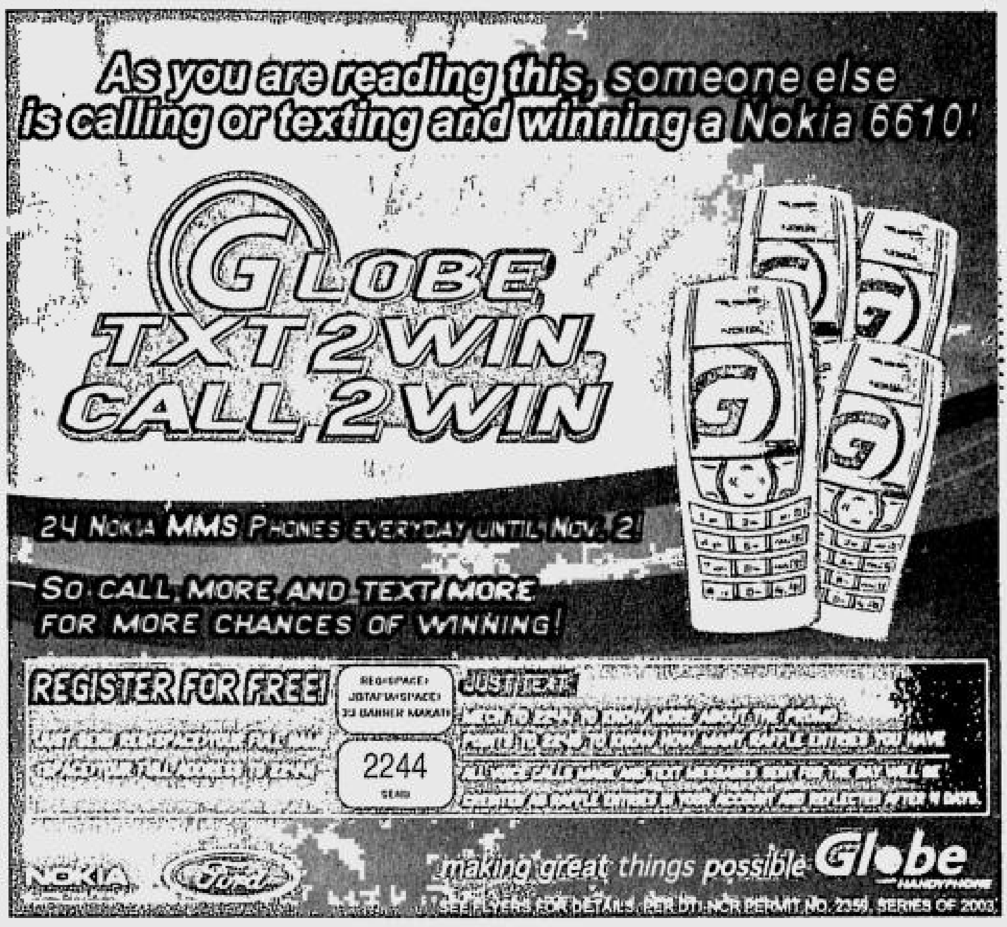
He says he has already had to do surgery on four badminton aficionados with ruptured Achilles tendons. In case you don't know where the Achilles tendon is located, it's that thick "cord" at the lower part of your calf near your heel.

Canlas claims these injuries are due to lack of strength and flexibility, poor warming-up techniques, wrong shoes or racquet, and playing too many games on consecutive days.

A "tennis elbow" doesn't just happen to tennis players. It can happen to anyone who grips a racquet too tightly and has weak forearm muscles. It can also occur in rock climbers, golfers and baseball players. I once had a client who got it from blow-drying her hair everyday. Canlas says racquets that are too light and are too tightly strung are con-

WHY/C3

People who pick up the game are mostly those who haven't exercised in years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THE MODELING world: Annette Coronel, Joanne Bitagcol and Bianca Valerio

TV's Ces Drilon with Illac Diaz

MEGA personas: Jun Cabangon-Chua, Mons Romulo Tantoco and Jenni Epperson

MODEL-turned-sculptor Cathy Santamaria Escaño and Juan Sarte

CHRISTINE Duque

SHAKERS and achievers: Restaurant 12's Elbert Cuenca and wife, Mega lady Liza Ilarde-Cuenca

Intimate get-together morphs into mega bash

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen
on Kodak Max

TO PARTY or not to party—that is not the question *moi* ask myself. Rather, the question is what parties (take note, with an "s") to attend!

At the loads of events I've gone to, I have drunk and rubbed elbows with tons of beautiful people who have conquered our town's mad party scene, many of them displaying staying power. It's really becoming amusingly nomadic, with the same fun pack moving from one happening to another. But to them, that's exactly what makes a fab and fun happening.

Well, one of those fabi nights was what mega lady Liza—with "z"—Ilarde, and her husband **Elbert Cuenca** of the swinging Restaurant 12 had expected, but a supposedly intimate get-together became a full-blown grand mega party to celebrate the first issue of Mega magazine with Liza as the new editor in chief, natch!

Like a true-blue restaurateur, Elbert managed to whip up a mega mix of sounds, drinks (bottomless Arctic vodka) and non-stop "arcachat"—as I would call it. Making Liza's big night distinct was an eye-catching, colorful alternative to the usual bar counter bowl of peanuts—a copy of the annual celebrity issue of Mega magazine, with the country's hailed songbird, and I must add rather controversial, **Regine Velasquez**, on the cover.

Without fancy invites, Liza turned into a one-woman text brigade and brought in, literally, a mob of the beautiful and not-so beautiful from every corner of our town.

How could you miss rubbing elbows and hips, *palanggas*, with the likes of Mai Mai Cojuangco and her fiance, **Andrea Zini**; one of Mega's 10 Most Beautiful Women for 2003, **Susan Reyes** and her favorite architect, **Conrad Onglao**; brilliant man for all seasons of Bench, Celio, Human, plus, plus, **Ben Chan**, *naturellement*; eligible **Anton Gonzales**; architect **Gil Coscoluela**; fashion princess **Jenni Epperson**; **Christine Duque**; **DJ Montano**; Dream Bar's hotshot **JR Isaac**; Shu Uemura gals **Tina Tinio** and **Xeng Zulueta**; **Angel Jacob**; **Bianca Valerio**; tall and gorgeous **Annette Coronel**; Southern hotshot designer **Randy Ortiz**; designers **Mich Dulce** and **Patrice Ramos-Diaz** and, how lucky can you get, Human's **Lucky Manzano**, among tons of gorgeous people.

And, hey!! You couldn't call it a Mega party without Liza's decade-old Mega palsy-walsy like adorable **Lorraine Belmonte**, Mega Magazines and Publications Inc. (MMPI) vice president and creative director; **Karen Vera**, Mega managing editor; and *naturellement*, the woman who started it all, MMPI president and CEO, brilliant and dazzling, mentally and spiritually, **Sari Yap**, no less!

Who says life begins at 30? Well, for Liza, the passion continues after 10 great years. Now, as cyber-smart Lorraine would say, "Let the fun begin again and last for more decades." I'll drink to that, babe.

Fiesta Bulakeña

Rustan's, with its tradition of celebrating excellence, has constantly been at the forefront in providing life's finer things to us Filipinos while, at the same time, putting the country at par with the rest of the world. Well, *palanggas*, Rustan's did it again by propelling Philippine heritage to high standards with Fiesta Bulakeña.

A celebration of the fabi treasures from the province of Bulacan—the fine crafts, sparkling jewelry, exciting flavors, exquisite woodcraft—it showcased the true ingenuity of Bulakeños.

After a short speech from the event's host, a proud Bulakeña herself, **Janelle So**, Rustan's hottest-shot, chair of the group of companies, Ambassador **Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr.**, welcomed all the chosen ones to the cultural feast. Fashionable Gov. **Josephine de la Cruz** expressed her appreciation "for everyone's overwhelming support to my province."

Ambassador Tantoco and Gov. de la Cruz, together with Rep. **Lorna Silverio** and Rep. **Willie Alvarado**, formally opened the event and the invitees moved to the colorful fiesta area.

Cosmo Manille and hot Bulakeño namedroppables rubbed elbows as they nibbled on cocktail finger-food and sipped their wine. Those buying, looking or just socializing included Bulacan board member **Antonio Ligon**, Mayor **Beth Javier** of Plaridel, Mayor **Evelyn Salvador** of Baliwag, Goldilocks' **Lydia David**, Baliwag ABC (Association of Barangay Chairs) president **Beth Agtarap**, Rotary Club of Makati-J.P. Rizal president **Yolly Hilario**, regional governor **Rene Simbulan** of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Dangal ng Bulacan Foundation Inc. president **Remy Macalingcag**, Bulacan Tourism Council chair **Gigi Simbulan**, and Bulacan Chamber of Commerce and Industry president **Violy Luna**, plus others too well-known they don't need to be mentioned, *palanggas*.

It was definitely a night that launched Bulacan's five days of fame at Rustan's.

Vision for Life party

When realtor and insurance broker **Lita Bato** decided to launch the Vision for Life health products in her motherland, Philippines, she ensured that it would be talked about for weeks. Held at the exclusive stable of the horse-y set, the Manila Polo Club, it brought out Cosmo Manille's hotshot namedroppables under one roof to experience the wonders that Vision for Life promised.

It was founded and is owned by a United States-based globetrotting couple—tall, dashing **Mark Stevens** and his attractive blonde wife **Holli**. Explaining the Vision for Life products, Mark said, "This pack guarantees to bring about miraculous changes to the body, soul and mind. Described as health promoters rather than cures, it has been created only after consulting some of the foremost scientists, doctors and R and D (research and development) specialists in the world."

Well aware that she has a winner in her hands, Lita is the sole distributor of 59 of the products classified as health, nutritional, beauty, longevity, weight management, homecare and dental.

During the party, women with wrists richly wrapped in Bulgaris and Cartiers hobnobbed with heavyweight businessmen. Even the highest official of Makati, the dynamic Mayor **Jejomar Binay**, as well as soon-to-be elected mayor, his wife **Dr. Elenita Binay**, were present to cheer Lita B. in her venture.

At the reception line were the Stevens' consummate hostess, Lita Bato, and **Dave Zuccolotto**, V4L Phils. president and CEO and vice president for international market, respectively. An interesting program, directed and choreographed by Ogee Atos, kicked off with a scintillating performance by a male dance troupe. The hottest models and beauty queens of Manille displayed the products.

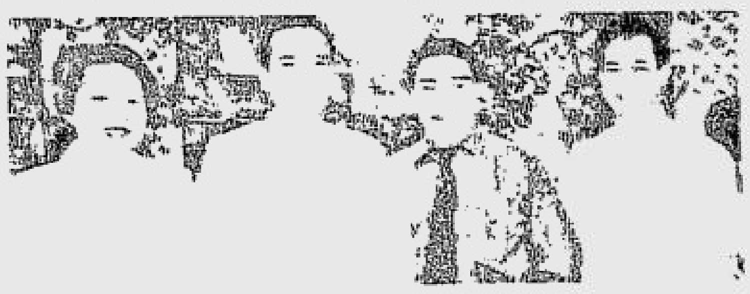
Once business talk was over, it was party time, and party they did till way past the guests' bedtime. Those not on the dance floor formed a queued at the info counter to ask how soon they could buy the products.

V4L Philippines president and CEO Lita Bato

CELIA Cuasay and Tina Carlos

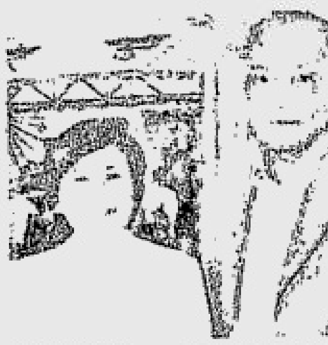
BB. Pilipinas World 2002 Kate Manalo and Pio Hernandez

RUSTAN'S Wines and Spirits president Victor Valbuena, Nedy Tantoco, Rustan's director for marketing Marilen Tantoco-Valbuena, Rustan's Group of Companies chair Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr., Baby Arenas and Lindy Jalbuena

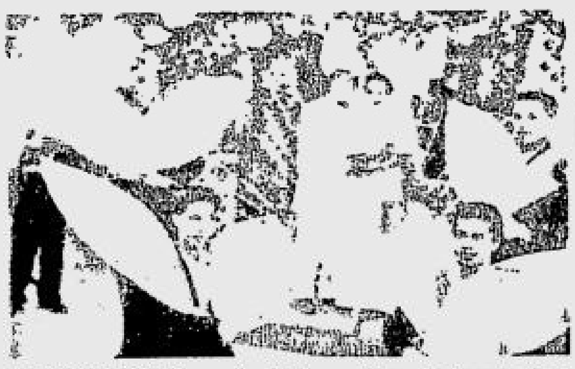

RUSTAN'S gang of shakers: Rustan's director for store operations Vida T. Estrella, Rustan's Makati operation manager Larry Tolosa, Rustan's Supermarket Inc. branch manager Boy Samson and Rustan's Makati operations manager Zaldy Sison

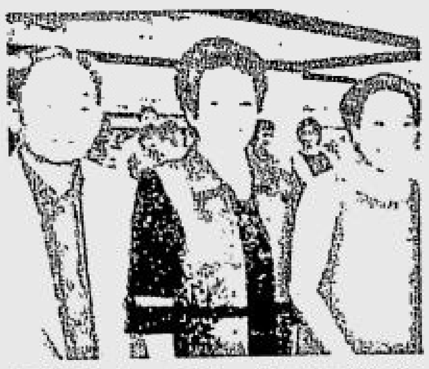
BULACAN sweet: Dulce Cepeda

RUSTAN'S marketing division manager Ginggay de la Merced and Rep. Lorna Silverio


REMY Malingcad and Dr. Jaime Laya

NINI Licaros and Frannie Aguinaldo Jacinto


PERFORMERS from the Bulacan Foundation staging an excerpt from "Nang Mabasag ang Banga"


TONY Rufino with Rep. Reylina Nicolas and Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz

JUDITH Villareal with Nini Valdez and Nini Licaros

DEVIN Cox, Rhoda Totten, Olga Severino Martel and Holli Stevens

H.E. Ambassador Enrique Syquia and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay

DR. Adolfo Bellosillo with Nellie Benzon and Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette

FRANK Evaristo, Oscar de Venecia, Tony Gonzales and former Solicitor General Raul Goco

PAING and Mely Hechanova

Why badminton injuries happen

From page C1

tributing factors for an inflamed elbow.

Badminton is called a "cutting" sport or a sport that requires stop-and-go rapid changes in direction. This can be challenging for strong athletic knees, but it can be deadly for middle-aged, out-of-shape knees.

Correct shoes

It doesn't help either if you don't wear the correct shoes. In badminton, you need to be able to lunge and pivot quickly in all directions so you need shoes that allow you to "slide" on the court. If you want to visit the emergency room for an ankle or knee injury, wear running or basketball shoes while playing badminton.

However, Canlas says competition level badminton shoes may not be the answer because they don't have enough arch support and they allow too much of a sliding motion for beginner players.

This is confirmed by a Danish study on badminton injuries by Uffe Jorgenson of the University of Copenhagen. Jorgenson writes, "Most shoes have a flat heel, low shock absorption and give no support to the foot." He recommends shoes that have less friction between the soles and playing surface but that have higher heels, shock absorption and stiffer, anatomically fitting heel counters. Unless you can find a brand of badminton shoes that has these features, tennis shoes are probably your best bet.

Acute and chronic injuries

Sports injuries are divided into acute or traumatic injuries and chronic or overused injuries. Acute injuries happen suddenly and accidentally and there is an easily identified reason. For example, you sprain your ankle because you trip over your shoelaces or your doubles partner smacks you in the face with his racquet.

Chronic injuries are those that take a while to develop and sort of creep up on you. For example, your knees start to ache because of all the lunging movements that are a necessary evil in badminton. Instead of correcting your lunging technique, strengthening muscles around your knee and checking with an orthopedic doctor if you have abnormal knee alignment, you ignore the aching feeling. After a while, your knees start hurting when you climb the stairs or you sit too long in one position. Eventually, you can't play badminton anymore because your knees are just too painful.

Badminton is a popular sport in England and its former colonies as well as the Scandinavian region so most of the research on badminton injuries comes from these countries. According to studies, the most dangerous traumatic injury that can occur in badminton is an injury to the eye. While eye injuries are not as common as ankle or knee problems, they are nevertheless worth mentioning because of the potential damage to the eyesight.

A Malaysian study called badminton the sport that presented the "greatest ocular hazard" in that country. A Canadian study published in the Physician and Sports Medicine Journal found that badminton accounted for 30-58 percent of all racquet sport eye injuries in Canada during a 10-year period.

Seventy percent of all badminton-related eye injuries happen during a doubles game. The person most at risk is the one near the net who either gets hit straight in the eyes by the opponent's shuttlecock or gets hit by the racquet or shuttlecock of his/her partner. A study in the British Journal of Opthalmology suggested that the "forward player should hold the racquet in front of the face while awaiting the return stroke, particularly if a high lob has been delivered when a smash return is probable." Another study says to avoid looking behind at your partner.

The studies also noted that children playing badminton in school tend to have more accidents involving getting hit in the face with a racquet or shuttlecock. According to the Canadian Journal of Opthalmology, of all the sports-related eye injuries among children, badminton was the highest single cause. The study called for "mandatory eye protection in badminton" and that this should apply to schools as well as sports clubs.

Recommended glasses

All the research scientists recommended the use of certified polycarbonate plastic glasses while playing to protect against eye injuries. It used to be believed that only beginners were prone to injury because they don't keep their eyes on the shuttlecock at all times, but research shows that very experienced players can get injured as well.

Several studies pointed out that while there are more eye injuries in squash, the injuries from badminton tend to be more severe. This is because, according to the Clinical Opthalmology textbook, "the 25- to 28-mm diameter shuttlecock head fits nicely into the orbit" of the eye.

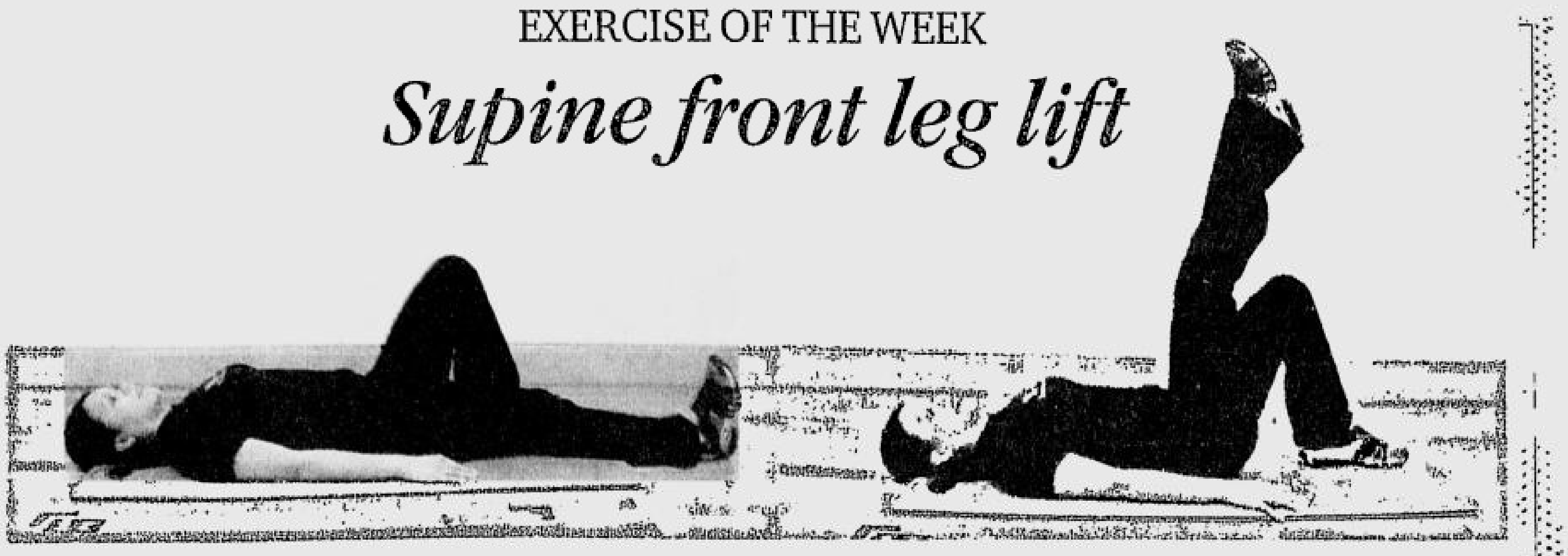
The shuttlecock may not look like a deadly weapon compared to a squash or tennis ball but it has been clocked at top speeds of 130-134 miles per hour. The fact that a shuttlecock looks like it couldn't kill a fly is a big reason there is lack of awareness among badminton players about the potential for eye injury.

Next week: More specific strategies to prevent badminton injuries

For past articles and exercises and suggestions for future columns, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Supine front leg lift



THIS exercise strengthens quadriceps (muscles in front of the thighs) as well as abdominal muscles.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie down with one leg bent and the other one straight.
2. Tighten abdominal muscles as you lift the straight leg towards the ceiling.
3. Keep control of the abs as you lower the leg.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions. Repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Exhale as you lift the leg; inhale as you lower.
2. Make sure that your lower back does not arch off the floor as you lower the leg down.
3. You can wear ankle weights for more of a challenge.

Repetitions:
Do five to 10 repetitions per leg.

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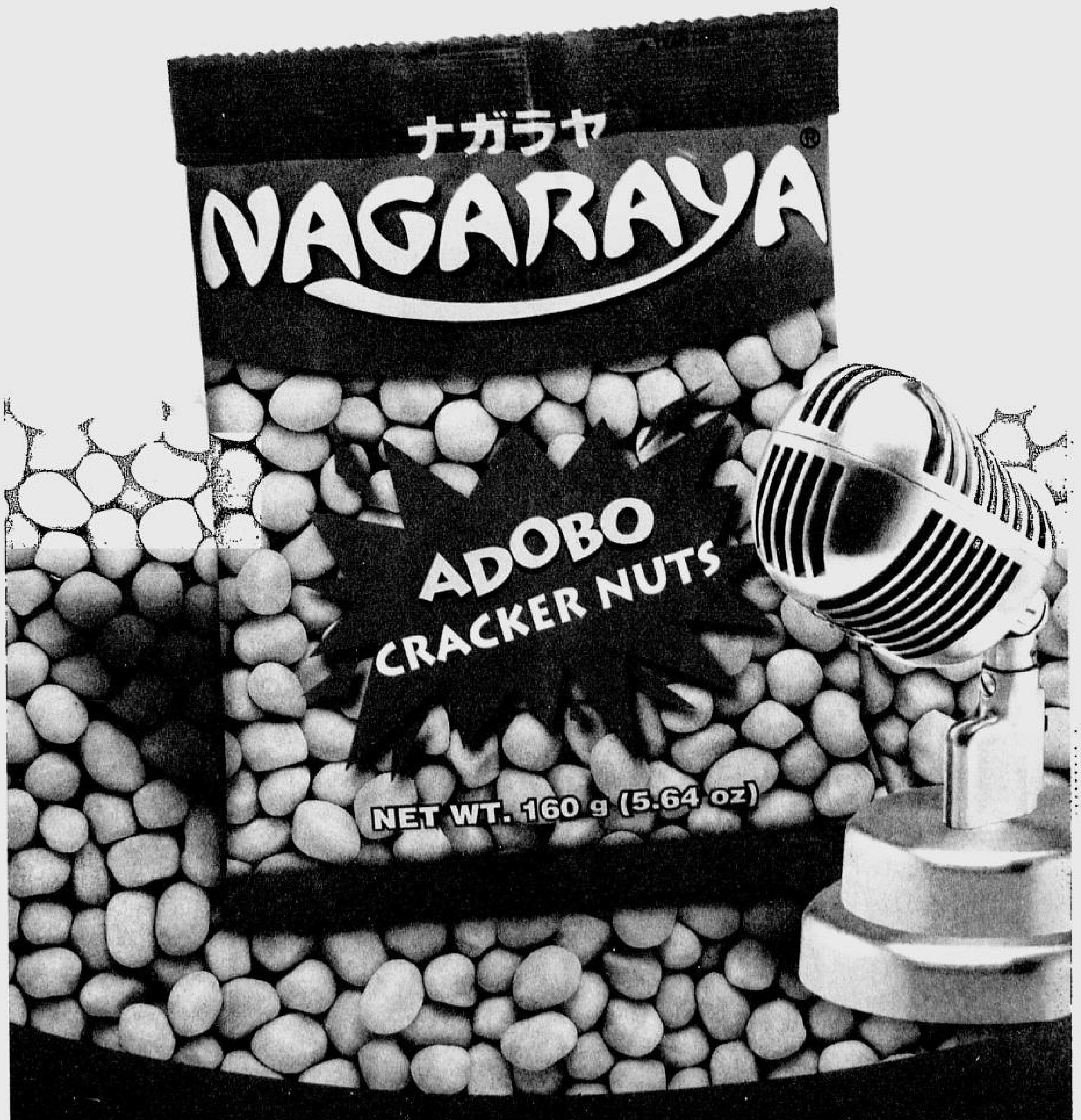

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INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

PHYSICAL signs of aging have led scientists to believe that the human body is one huge biological clock. It starts at birth, continues to tick through 29 and then winds down for the next 40 or so years.

Today, set belief systems on aging have been challenged. Yes, one can live to be 120! And the only reason our clocks can't reach 120 is molecular sabotage. This is according to Huber Warren, Ph.D, deputy associate director, Biology of Aging Program, National Institute of Aging, Bethesda, Maryland.

Very simply, normal body processes like breathing and eating have leftover molecules that damage the body's genes, thus eventually causing poor vision, crow's feet, gray hair, saggy breasts and flabby thighs.

> If you know how to manage stress, you can manage your health better

40's
30's
STRESS

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Erasing time

- Your ideal body image is what sets the goal for you. What is your belief? Find a heroine or a hero to inspire you.
- Goal-setting follows your target weight and body strength.
- Work with the experts in nutrition and fitness. The gym nearest you can become your second home. A brisk walk is good for health, too. And watch what you eat.
- Personal care is a must. Be clean and well-scrubbed from top to bottom.
- See a dermatologist for the latest in skin care. A monthly cleansing is necessary for good skin management.
- Start taking a multivitamin daily.

Skin-care tips

Dry skin—Dos: Use a mild, soap-free liquid cleanser or a "super-fatted" cleansing bar morning and night. Select moisturizers with glycerin, hyaluronic acid or dimethicone (which delay moisture loss). Apply moisturizer when face and neck are damp to lock in moisture. Use oil-based foundations and cream powders. Take the skin-vitamin Imedeen daily (if it's within your budget).

Don'ts: Wash your face with harsh soap, using buffing pads or grainy cleansing products. Forget to use an SPF-15 sunscreen on face, neck and chest every day.

Oily skin—Dos: Use a cleanser for combination skin twice daily. Apply moisturizer only when needed, use oil-free foundations.

Don'ts: Forget to use an SPF-15 sunscreen that is oil-free.

All about fatigue

Fatigue is usually not due to aging or a medical problem. Chances are, it's the result of too much work, stress, weight, junk food and too little exercise.

Eating habits in your younger years cannot apply to your later years. They have to change. Here are some things you can do now to fight fatigue:

- Pace yourself. Your body says no but you ignore the warning signals. Don't push yourself too hard.
- Don't agonize over situations beyond your control. Try to re-focus on things that you can control.
- Play. Give yourself breathing space. Relax.
- Balance your diet. Snack wisely on fruits, nuts and unbuttered popcorn.
- Quick fixes like a candy bar may give you an immediate energy boost but will cause your energy level to drop just as fast.
- Stay away from booze and pills.
- Exercise.
- Breathe deeply. Then keep still for 15 minutes. You can focus on a word that reflects your personal faith—Christ, God, Allah, Krishna, Buddha... A sense of calm will then be yours.

Hair-loss factors

Like it or not, heredity plays a major role in hair loss. Men lose their hair on the crown and hairline while women are most likely to lose their hair evenly.

No one is quite sure what causes hair loss or stops it from growing. One can, however, take note of factors such as the following which can affect hair growth:

- Fad/crash diets and diets deficient in protein
- Anemia
- Childbirth
- Drugs (birth control pills, steroids, beta blocker, blood pressure medications and drugs derived from Vitamin A conditions like lupus, arthritis, polycystic, ovarian syndrome)
- Major stress—divorce, death of a loved one, etc.

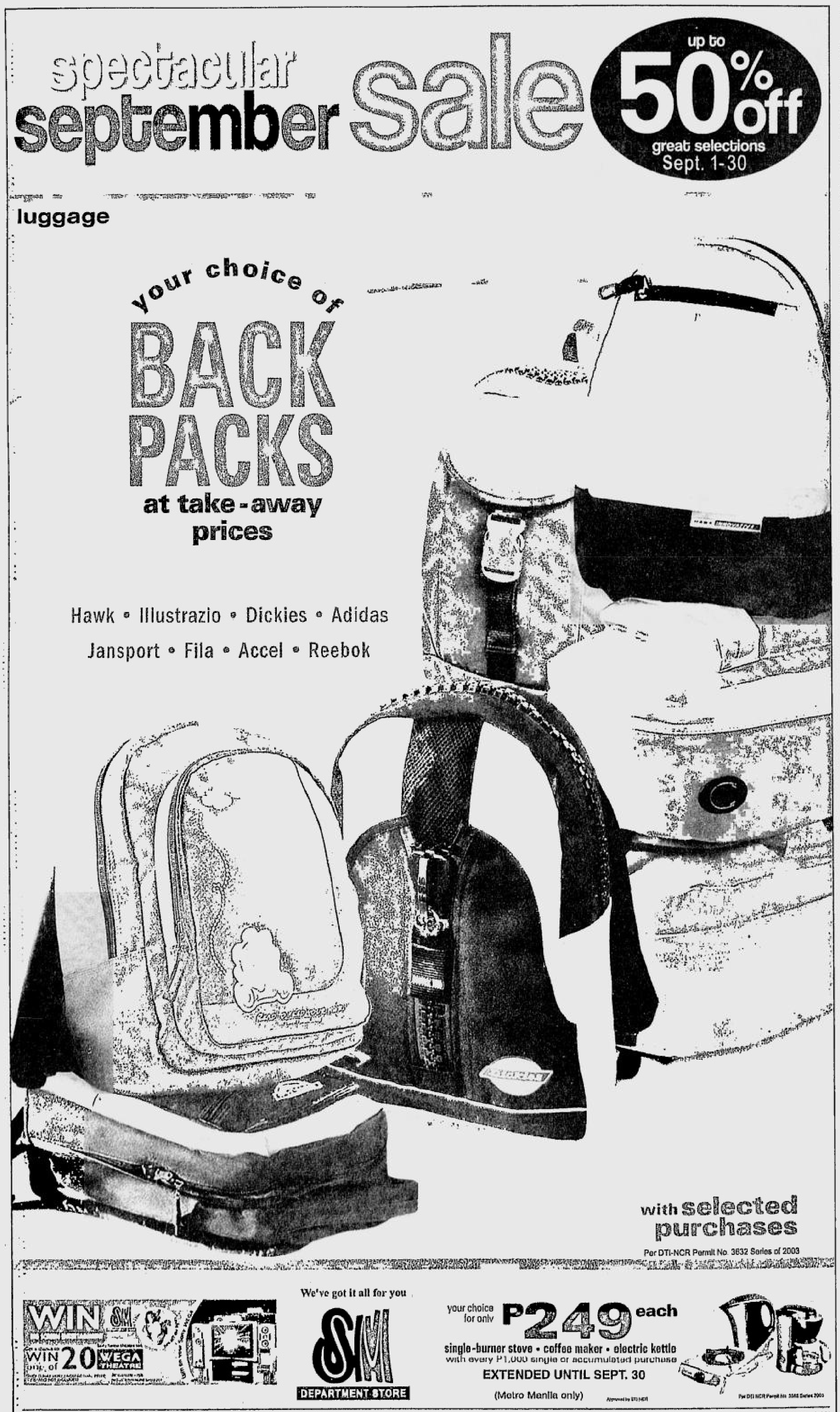
Sad to say, the only real answer to hair loss is hair transplant. Miracle creams and treatments do no good, according to Ken Hashimoto, M.D., professor of dermatology, Wayne State University, School of Medicine.

Whatever condition ails you, it is clear that stress almost always plays a major role in it. If we learn to manage stress, we can, to a large extent, manage our health.

Relaxing ritual: Get a rubber ball, small enough to make a fist with. Each time you feel you're stressed out, grab the ball as tight as you can and then release. Repeat on both hands 10 times. Affirm as you release your grasp, "I release my tension here and now."

Love and light!

References: "Age Erasers for Women," Prevention Magazine; "The Wrinkle Cure" by Dr. Michael Perricone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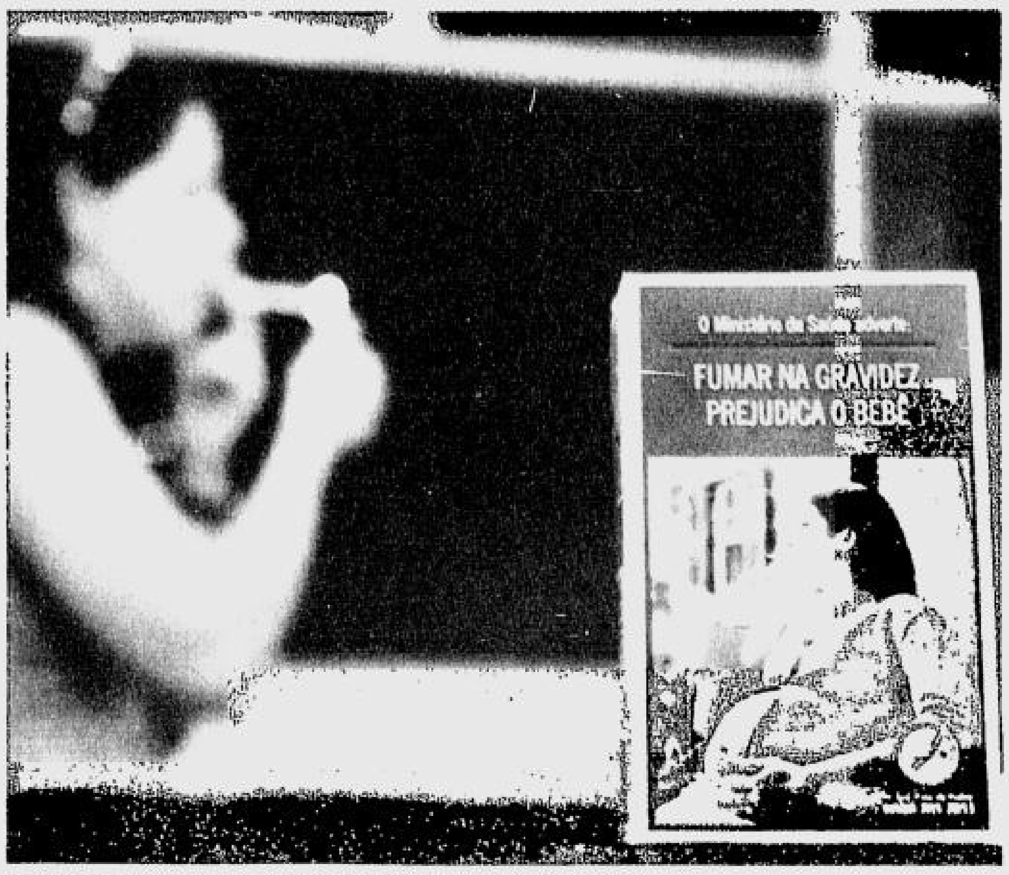
O Ministério da Saúde adverte:
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SHOCKING IMAGES

The European Commission is proposing the use of shocking images on tobacco products, as Brazil and Canada are already doing, to hammer home health warnings.

A Brazilian cigarette pack depicts the photograph of a pregnant smoker with the caption, "The Ministry of Health warns: Smoking during pregnancy is detrimental to child's health," while in the background a woman lights up (above).

At left is another cigarette pack saying "in the case of pregnant women, cigarette may cause premature childbirth, newborns with weight below the normal and increased probability of contracting asthma." AFP

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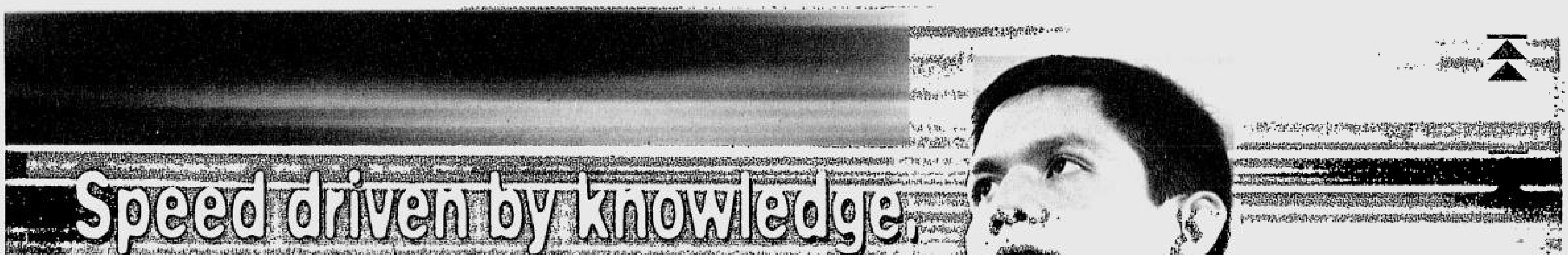

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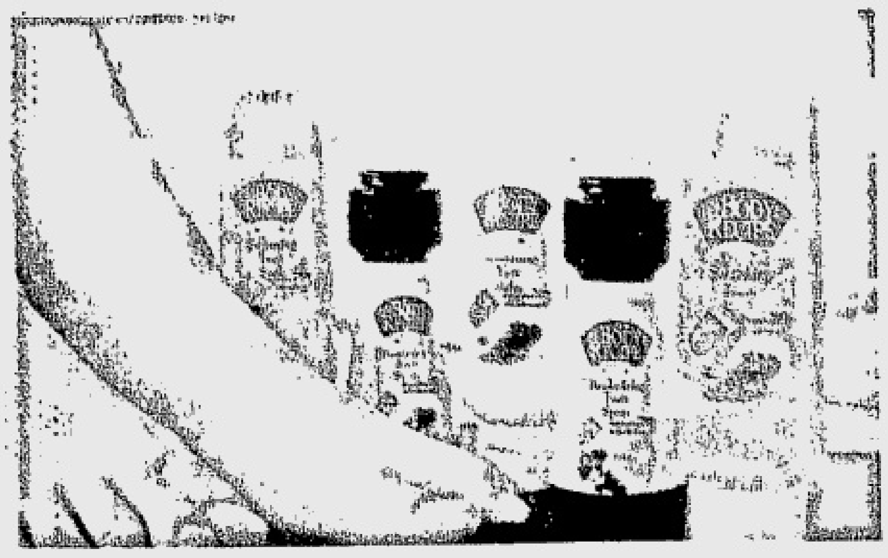


Enjoy foot spa at home

ON any given day, a sudden downpour will catch us off-guard, making us susceptible to immersion foot. Immersion foot is the result of long exposure to cold and dampness. Immersion foot can result in swelling, tingling, itching, loss of skin or skin ulcers. In addition, the cold and damp weather that our feet experience during the rainy season can lead to athlete's foot and fungal infection.

HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives has come up with a new line of foot care products that rejuvenates your feet right in the comfort of your own home. The Body Recipe Footcare Line consists of a Softening Foot Soak, Exfoliating Foot Scrub, Moisturizing Foot Balm and Deodorizing Foot Spray. The foot care line contains natural ingredients to clean, soften and exfoliate. The products' mentholated formulation provides soothing relief.

The Body Recipe foot care line comes in two fruit scents—Orange Berry and Blueberry.

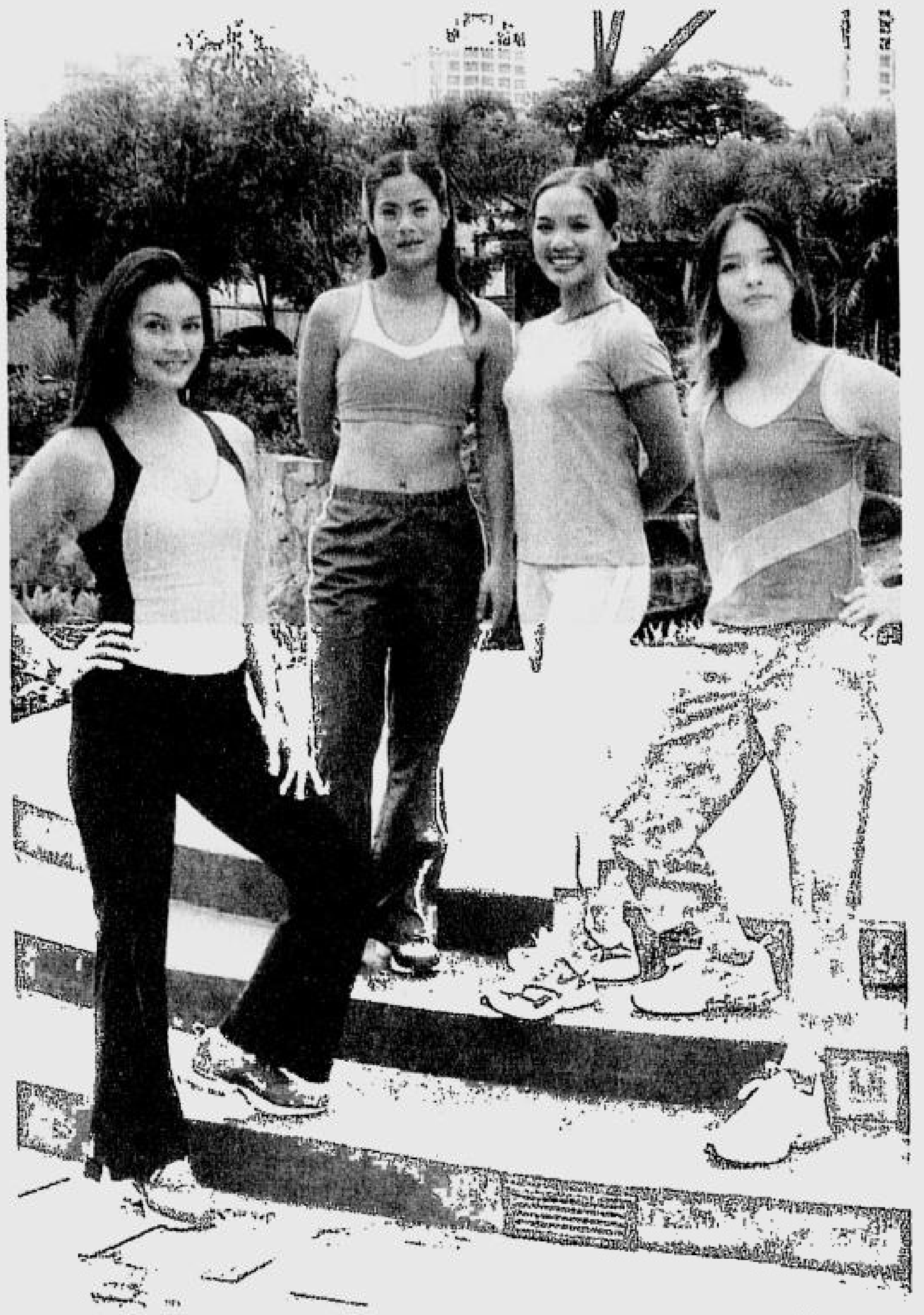
To jumpstart your foot spa experience, HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives treats customers to a free foot spa for a minimum purchase of the Body Recipe Footcare line.

The Body Recipe Footcare Line is sold exclusively at HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives with 80 stores in Metro Manila and Luzon, including newly opened branches at Ayala MRT Station, Hidalgo St., Quiapo, Pavillion Mall in Laguna and Greenlanes Beauty Central, Greenhills.

UST STUDENT NAMED BEST DISC GOAL AWARDEE

Pocholo Mendoza, a fine arts student from the University of Santo Tomas, bested over a hundred Frisbee enthusiasts as Nestlé Ice Cream's Best Disc Goal awardee. Mendoza, who played for the UST team in the recently held 1st Ultimate Intercollegiate Championships, was awarded by Gerard Peñaflor, Nestlé Ice Cream's brand manager, with gift certificates from Nestlé Ice Cream and the distinction of being the first-ever Best Disc Goal awardee. Nestlé Ice Cream Best Disc Goal required players to throw the disc toward a designated goal.

Four women redefine the concept of beauty



THE ICONS of NikeBeautiful: Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Reema Ma. V. Chanco, Tricia Chiongbian and Gaby de la Merced

NIKEBEAUTIFUL pays tribute to the woman who emanates both external and internal beauty. In line with this, Nike presents four NikeBeautiful women, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Gaby dela Merced, Reema Ma. V. Chanco and Tricia Chiongbian. Coming from different walks of life, they are icons of what NikeBeautiful stands for.

A jewelry designer and writer by profession, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez also takes her role as a mother very seriously. A picture of good grooming and grace, Tweetie says the secret of her beauty lies in enjoying herself while practicing a good amount of restraint and responsibility. "I keep a strict workout schedule and devote a few hours on sports every week," she says. Tweetie personifies femininity and this is simply because she feels that taking care of one's appearance is the key to success.

At 21, Gaby de la Merced is ready to conquer the world. A student, Gaby is also a race car driver and enjoys playing flag football. She is the Nike icon embodying strength and steel. A no-frills person, Gaby feels that one can look her best if she has achieved what she has set out to do. As for her sense of style, Gaby is a great believer in functionality and "style with purpose."

A TV show host, Reema Ma. V. Chanco was previously a phone banker and loves the freedom experienced in playing frisbee. Reema is a great believer of internal beauty reflected externally and says the key to looking good lies in being happy and spreading love.

Tricia Chiongbian is a Studio 23 VJ and a host of "Gameplan." A combination of beauty and brains, Tricia has a holistic approach to life. "I believe in taking care of myself not only physically, but mentally, spiritually and emotionally. Beauty for me is something internal," she says.

NikeBeautiful was created not only to promote the line of fitness products for women but also to redefine the standard concept of beauty. The products, which range from apparel, footwear to equipment, have been designed keeping in mind the demands of workaholic, gymaholic women.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Why is there a hierarchy to be followed when enrolling dependents?

The hierarchy rule requires that married principal members must first enroll their spouses before their children and that single principal members enroll their parents prior to enrolling brothers and sisters. In both cases, the older dependent is enrolled first. This rule was designed to guarantee "anti-selection". That is, all eligible dependents are enrolled and not only those who have been noted to have higher incidence of illnesses.

Meet your MEDICard Team

For more than nine years now, **Dr. Roberto A. Raymundo** has been providing healthcare services to MEDICard members. Now based in Medical Center Manila (MCM), this batch '84 De La Salle University Medicine graduate specializes in the field of Internal Medicine. He also subspecializes in Adult Cardiology which he finished at the Philippine Heart Center for Asia. Dr. Raymundo is a Diplomate and Fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians, the Philippine Heart Association and the Philippine College of Cardiology. Members may visit him for consultations at his clinic, Room 342 from Mondays to Fridays, 2 to 6 PM.

Pediatrics is the field of expertise of **Dr. Marilyn L. Averia-Nepomuceno.** "Doktora Bam", as she has gone to be known, addresses the healthcare needs of MEDICard members at Capitol Medical Center (CMC) in Quezon City. She was conferred doctor of Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and finished her residency training for her specialization at CMC. Dr. Nepomuceno is a member of the Philippine Pediatric Society and is the Secretary of the Quezon City Medical Society-District IV. Members may visit her for consultations at Room 1108. She holds clinic every Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 1 to 3 in the afternoon.

Dr. Roberto M. Amansec is MEDICard's accredited specialist in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Medical Center located at Km. 78, McArthur Highway, San Fernando, Pampanga. Dr. Amansec, who finished Medicine at UERM-MMC, specializes in the field of Orthopedic Surgery. He took his residency training for his specialization at the Philippine Orthopedic Center. He also holds a Masters Degree in Hospital Administration at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business. Members may visit him for their needed consultations at the hospital's OPD clinic every Tuesdays, from 9 AM to 12 noon and during Fridays from 1 to 3 in the afternoon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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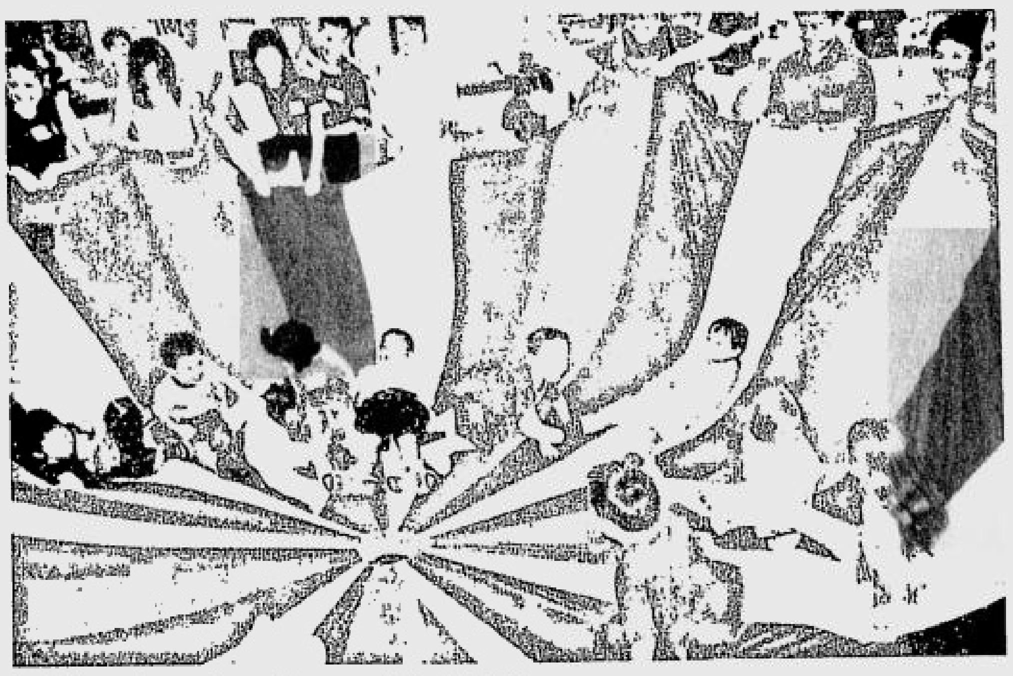


KIDS have fun at the activity area of The Little Gym.

Where kids gain confidence the fun way

THE LITTLE Gym provides instruction, practice and encouragement to babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

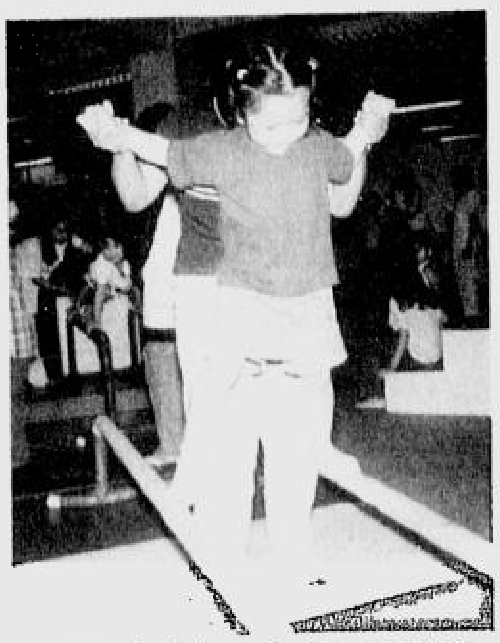
Robin Wes, psychologist, educator, musician, physical education and motor development specialist, and parent, designed the Little Gym program.

Realizing children learn more in a stress-free environment, every day in school is filled with fun activities.

The Little Gym International Inc.'s newest campaign tries to make motor skill development fun to build confidence that will contribute to the kids' lifetime success. Every child, even a shy one, is gently encouraged to learn new skills and motivated to tackle physical challenges to improve his self-esteem.

Learning may be innate in children but it needs proper guidance. The Little Gym has a faculty of 25 with years of experience in handling young children.

Children also get plenty of space to move freely around. The Little Gym's activity area covers at least 200 sq m per facility, excluding the area for reception, parties and special activities.



PROPER stimulation and guidance can help young children gain self-esteem.

The Little Gym recently opened a branch in Singapore attended by international celebrities and personalities.

Call 8151735, 6372436 or 9299018.

Have you had an encounter with dwarves?

I'VE observed a growing interest among local publishers to come out with books concerning Filipino esoteric beliefs, culture and practices.

Time was when all we could find in commercial stores were foreign books. Even books about Philippine healers were written by foreign authors like American Harold Sherman and German Dr. Alfred Stelter.

Another American, Harvey Martin, wrote a book on the secret teachings and practices of Philippine spiritism. And these are not even available in the local market! Few Filipino writers are interested in them.

Many of the local books regarding Philippine paranormal and esoteric topics were written by this columnist. This is really unfortunate because the Philippines has one of the richest and oldest esoteric cultures in Asia, but very few know about them.

They exist mostly in oral traditions and practices handed down from one generation to another. And much of such knowledge is well guarded from unauthorized intrusions by outsiders.

That's why it came as a pleasant surprise to me when a big local publisher, known more for publishing textbooks and law books, asked me recently to write a book about dwarves or elves. This publisher has recently branched out into publishing topics of general interest, rather than confine itself to textbooks and highly specialized topics. So far, it has published books on such varied topics as Philippine mummies, masks and the sorcerers of Siquijor Island.

It's about time a comprehensive and authoritative book about dwarves or *dwendes* is written, because there are many people who have encountered these creatures but very little is known about them due to unfounded fears and superstitions. Many of those who have seen them often refuse to talk about their experiences for fear of being labeled crazy.

The only books I have encountered about these little unseen creatures are the "Mahiwagang Daigdig ng mga Dwende" (The Wonderful World of Dwarves) by former press secretary and ambassador Leoncio Parungao Jr., and another one whose title are the names of the two *dwendes* written about. I could no longer remember the title nor the author of that other book.

But these books, though interesting and valuable for their contribution to esoteric literature in the Philippines, are confined to the experiences of the mediums who have had contact with them.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

Sympathetic

What the publisher wanted, to which I agreed, was to publish a book about the history, types, purpose and characteristics of these creatures from the point of view of as many people who have encountered them as possible.

The book will contain interviews with ordinary people as well as with experts, exorcists, psychics and healers who have encountered dwarves. It will also contain interviews with scientists and skeptics who deny their existence and who believe that these creatures are mere figments of people's imaginations.

However, the book will be generally sympathetic to these unseen creatures and will attempt to understand them rather than condemn or fear them.

In the Philippines, there are varied and even contrasting beliefs about dwarves. Some feel that having them in the house spells bad luck; others, like the publisher, believe that dwarves bring good luck and protect house members from harm and evil intents of others.

To succeed in this difficult writing assignment, I need the help of as many people as possible. I would like to ask any reader who has encountered these little creatures (not only *dwendes* but other elementals like *engkantos*, *kapre*, *tikbalang*, *sirenas*, *tiyanaks*, etc.) to write to me their stories.

I am specially interested in those encounters that were witnessed by several people and those with physical manifestations or evidence. For example, I've met a young woman whose invisible friends she alone could see would give her P500 to P1,000 bills when she needed money.

I've seen footprints of *dwendes* embedded on hard cement on a septic tank behind a house in Angono, Rizal. I've seen a small brass statue of a naked Sto. Niño given by a dwarf to Leo Parungao, and so on.

Belief in dwarves is universal and is definitely not confined to the Philippines nor to Southeast Asia alone. The 15th-century Swiss physician, mystic and alchemist, Paracelsus, was the first to scientifically study and classify them. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes books, wrote a book an fairies titled "The Fairies are Coming," and the Irish people believe in leprechauns which are the equivalent of our *dwendes*. So as you can see, belief in these creatures is pretty common all over the world.

Again, I request readers to write to me their detailed experiences of encounters with dwarves and other elemental creatures, with illustrations if possible. Your contribution will be acknowledged if used in the book.

Address letters to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 8107245/8926806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

I would like to ask readers who have encountered these little creatures to write to me their stories for use in a forthcoming book

Detecting hearing defects in babies

AT least one of every 1,000 Filipino babies born has a hearing problem.

"And damage is permanent if nothing is done about it," says Alejandro P. Opulencia, chair of the Department of Otolaryngology (head and neck surgery) at University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center.

Opulencia, secretary of the Philippine Society of Audiology, explains, "Hearing should be rehabilitated early before the baby is 4 months old, otherwise speech is impaired."

Preferably, the baby should undergo a hearing test before being discharged from the hospital. The Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) and Auditory Brainstem Evoked Response (ABR) tests can determine the problem.

Some of the symptoms that a baby has a hearing problem are slurred (*bulol*) and delayed speech and inattention to instruction.

Studies have indicated that detection of hearing loss during infancy followed by appropriate intervention minimizes the need for treatment when they enter school.

Universal screening of newly born infants are required in developed countries such as the United States, Britain and Australia. In the Philippines, only a handful of medical institutions have started on a similar hearing screening program.

The screening is inexpensive, the specialist says, costing about P150 to P200 in some hospitals.

The effects of severe or profound hearing impairment are delays in spoken language as well as reading and writing skills, he says.

Hearing impairment can also result in behavioral problems with devastating consequences to other members of the family as they try to cope with a problem child, he says.

Identifying children with impairment is important. The greatest benefit from screening comes from early detection of moderate to severe impairment between birth and age three. At this stage, sound stimuli appears to be critical to the development of speech and language. Infants screened for hearing loss may be treated in most cases.

"When a hearing impairment is detected at an early stage, infants as young as four weeks may be fitted with a hearing device," Opulencia says.

"These infants will develop just like their normal peers. For infants aged six months, early intervention results in better language skills than others whose hearing impairment are identified after six months from birth," he says.

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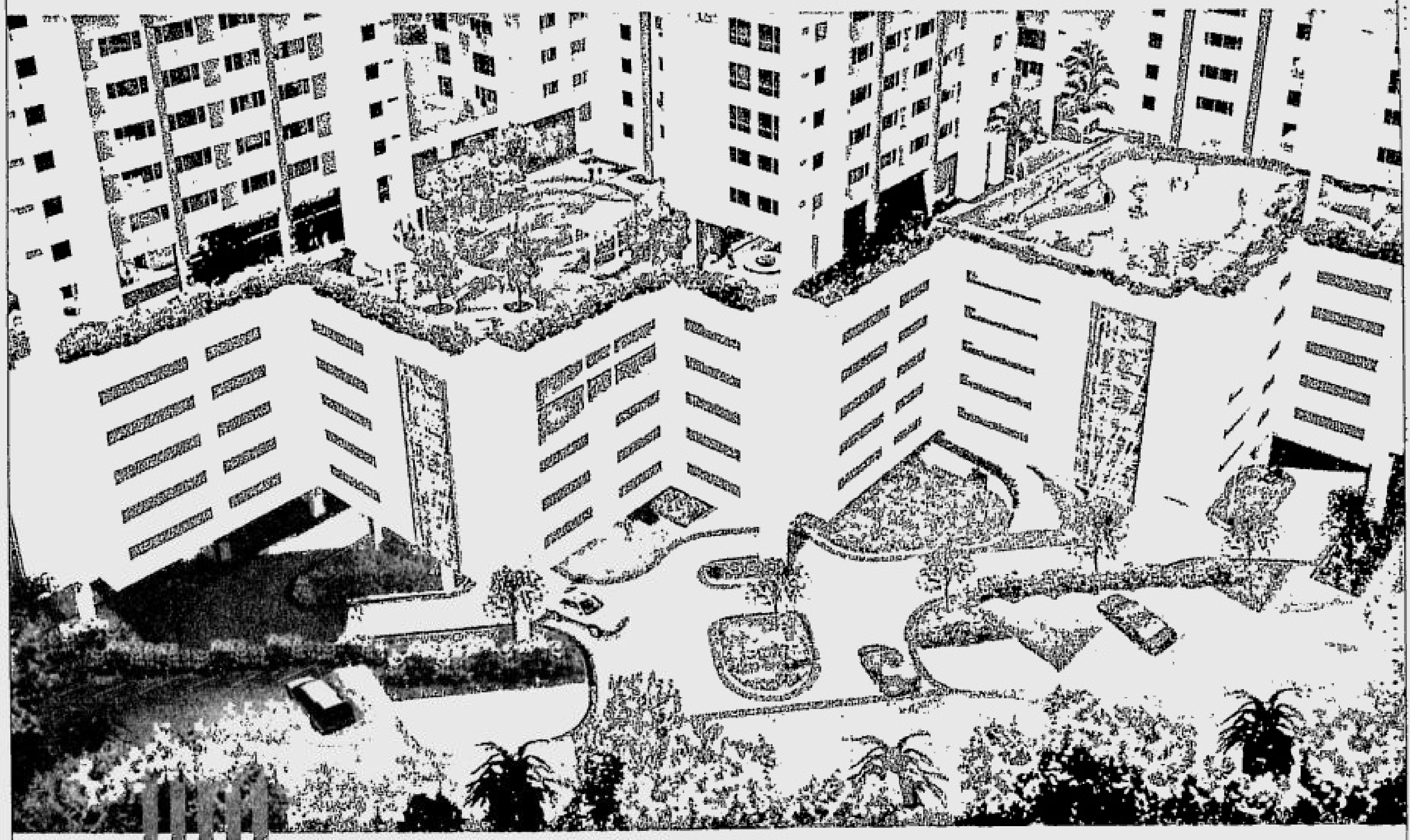

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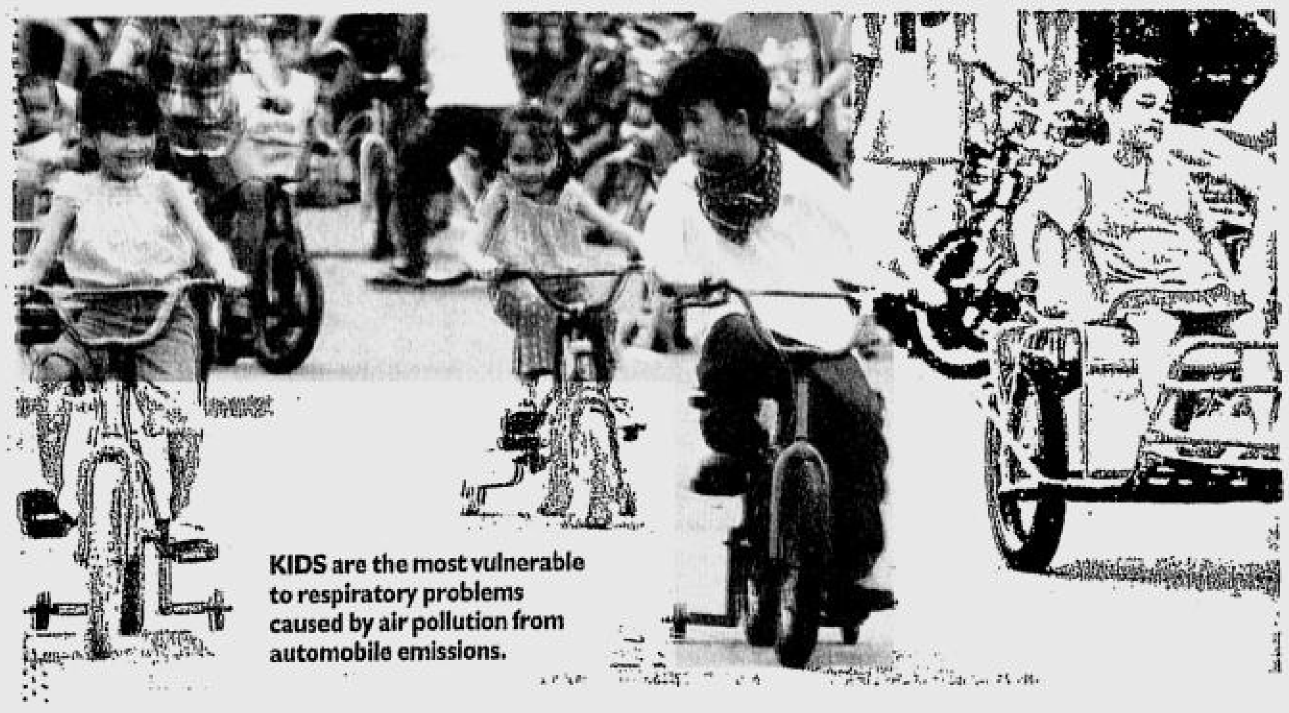
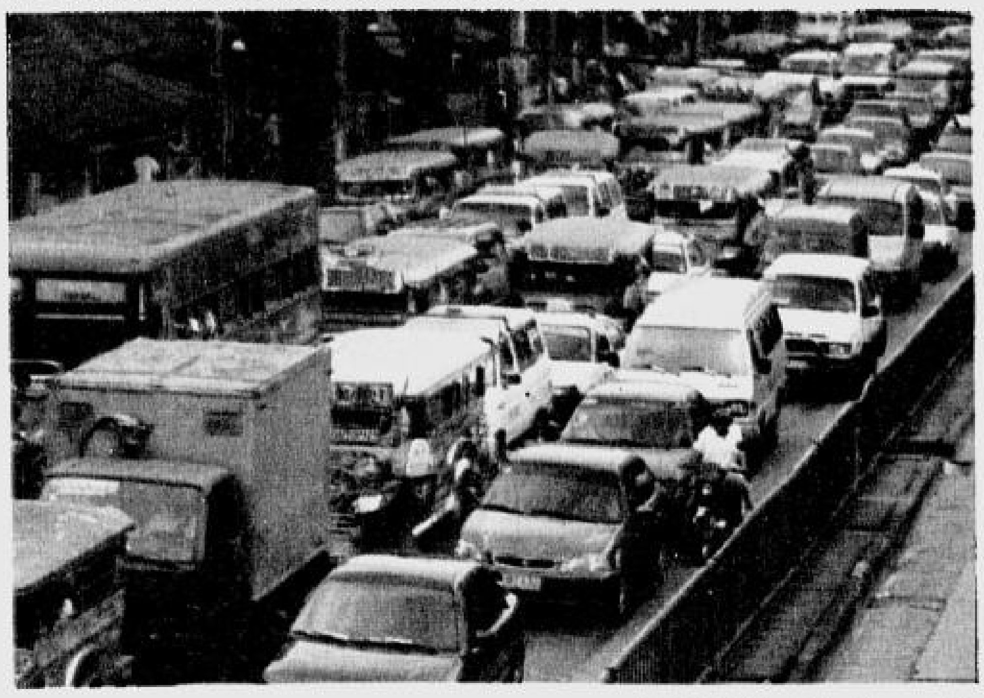


KIDS are the most vulnerable to respiratory problems caused by air pollution from automobile emissions.



IN BOGOTA, Colombia, policies favoring pedestrians—and eliminating gridlocks like this—were endorsed by 80 percent of the population.

Pedal power day around the world

By Linda B. Bolido

SCORES of Metro Manilans will indirectly give Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), an alternative to cutting down trees to build wider roads when they take to the streets on Sept. 27, World Car-free Day.

They will not take their message personally to Fernando and other government officials. What they will do instead is go on a 30-km bike run to and from Miriam College on Katipunan Avenue, QC. Organized by the Firefly Brigade and endorsed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the anti-car "protest" 7-11 a.m. will go from Quezon City to Makati and back along Edsa.

The annual event aims to make people aware that automobiles are not only slowly killing Earth but themselves as well. In an open letter to Metro Manilans, the Firefly Brigade noted that, because streets were filled with cars, "cities are noisier, dirtier and more dangerous than they used to be."

Various studies have already shown that motor vehicles are a major source of air pollution, which causes several health problems. As of 2001, the Philippines Environment Monitor 2002 (PEM 2002) reported there were 3.9 million cars and other motor vehicles registered, triple the number 20 years ago. The Department of Health says pollution from motor vehicles accounts for 80 percent of the overall pollution level in the country.

Main culprit

In Metro Manila, for instance, it was reported that almost all emissions of carbon monoxide, 99.2 percent, came from vehicles. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and tasteless substance that can disrupt the supply of oxygen to the blood and adversely affect the nervous system.

Cars also emit ozone, which can cause a range of acute effects including eye, nose and throat irritation; chest discomfort; cough; and headache. It can increase asthmatic attacks and cause pulmonary damage in children and young adults.

PEM 2002 said acute and long-term health effects of air pollution also strained already limited government resources. "The health cost of air pollution in four cities (Metro Manila, Davao, Cebu and Baguio) has been estimated to be more than $400 million per year, equivalent to 0.6 percent of the country's national gross domestic product (GDP). These four cities represent more than a quarter of the Philippines' urban population."

> For four hours on Saturday, scores of bikers will fill historic Edsa to mark World Car-free Day

Cars cause more than just slow deaths from pollution. By themselves, they pose a direct threat to people's lives. European studies show that the lives of people who use cars are more at risk than those who use public transport. Figures indicate that, as more people journey by car in European cities, the number of persons killed on the roads also rises. On the other hand, in cities where public transport is well developed, the number of people killed from the use of automobiles is only half of that in places without an efficient system.

According to the British publication the Guardian, every day, 3,000 people are killed and 30,000 seriously injured on the world's roads.

So far, figures on deaths and injuries involving automobiles have still to be compiled in the Philippines, but hardly a day passes without the media reporting serious accidents involving motor vehicles.

More handicapped

The risk posed by cars to humans is higher for the less physically able. In fact, automobiles add to their handicap as John Whitelegg points out in "Dying to Breathe": "Traffic makes basic tasks for those lacking in perfect hearing, sight and physical mobility much more difficult." To this list one can add the growing elderly population, which is less agile and with senses not as acute as before.

Many people are also unaware that what they consider a convenience represents a huge expense. Costs involved in owning a car—from purchase to annual insurance, maintenance or fuel costs, toll and parking fees—do not arise at the same time so car owners do not know how much they are actually spending. Studies show that in Europe, where vehicles are changed much more often than in the Philippines and usually kept in good running condition, the average actual cost of a car is estimated to be around 6,000 to 9,000 Euros (P372,000-558,000) annually or about 500 to 660 Euros (P31,000-40,920) per month.

Money that should go into social services for majority of the population is also often spent for making travel convenient for motorists. In Metro Manila, for instance, despite the fact that figures show 80 percent of the population does not use cars for daily transport, MMDA seems more concerned about making traffic flow faster and make passage easier for motorists instead of improving the public transport system so people would have less use for cars.

As the car-free advocates point out, the needs of motor vehicles use up a lot of money that can be spent on education, health, water and sanitation programs. The poor suffer the most because basic services become limited and they also have to breathe all the air pollutants cars emit daily as they take public transport, bike, or walk.

But as Bogotá, Colombia, has demonstrated, transport policies can actually be designed for people instead of for cars. WRI Features, a monthly international news features service on environment and development issues, reported that Enrique Peñalosa, Bogota mayor from 1998 to 2001, reallocated transport budgets to improve the quality of life for the poorest.

The city built cycling and pedestrian-only routes. A 17-km car-free route connected some of the poorest parts of the city with the facilities they have to access, including work places. Peñalosa introduced a car number plate system, much like Metro Manila's so-called "color-coding" scheme, that required 40 percent of the cars to be off the roads during peak hours on two days a week, a move that reduced air pollution. Moreover, over 80 miles of main roads are now closed for seven hours every Sunday. On one weekday in 2002, a car-free day was set up and people went to work without a car.

Cars outlawed

Peñalosa knew how the problem started: "Once everyone could afford to have a car, no one could get anywhere because of the traffic." A subsequent poll showed 82 percent of the city's seven million residents supported Peñalosa's initiatives. The city has also voted to outlaw cars inside Bogota during rush hour by 2015.

World Car-free Day aims to bring this awareness of the many problems caused by automobiles to more Filipinos and encourage them to adopt lifestyles that will minimize the use of cars to make the air cleaner, reduce traffic gridlock, and create more livable cities. It will ask people to:

- Walk, take public transport, or car pool with friends.
- Ask local officials to designate car-free zones and days to enable more people to run, bike, and stroll safely and worry-free.
- Use cars less so there will be less pollution, stress and cost in terms of money, vehicle wear and tear, energy and time.
- Pedal around the city. A third of trips taken in the metropolis are shorter than two kilometers. The short trips add significantly to both traffic congestion and pollution but they are ideal for bicycle travel.

Text 0917-462 9132 and 0918-3207118 or visit www.fireflybrigade.org

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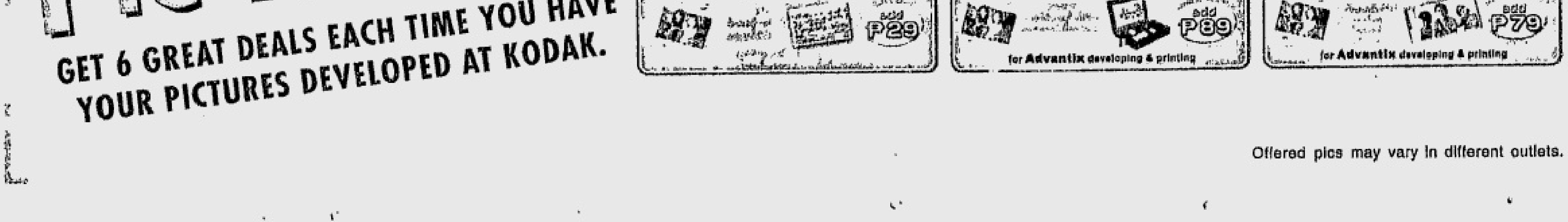

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